

Shopping Plus

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Friday, December 21, 2001

Tongue teasers: hors d'oeuvres can be among the best parts of holiday parties

BY SYLVIA RECTOR
DETROIT FREE PRESS
NIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS
The most tempting foods on the party table aren't huge ham, beef or pans of lasagna. What guests reach for first are morsels with big flavors and bright colors, the oh-so-rich dips and creamy spreads, creamy soups, who can resist a tender, smoky barbecue riblet or the rich flavor of a plump sea scallop, served on a convenient pick? Does anyone say no to a assortment of crispy little tartlets holding who-knows-what salsas?

Everyone adores appetizers, and no one ever has enough room for them. This roundup features 15 recipes, plus directions for easy breads and crackers to alongside them.

Make-ahead temptations require only a few minutes of assembly at party time.

Appetizers: Shrimp Tapas; Smoked Salmon Mousse; Sesame-Eggplant Dip; Herbed Cheese Spread; Wonton Cheese Straws; Gingered Cakes with Cilantro-Lime Glaze; Lemon Chili Shrimp Roulades; Cocktail Ribs; Steak au Poivre; Tomato, Basil and Tarragon Tartlets; Smoked Salmon Tea Cakes with Dill Butter; Curried Shrimp and Chive Rolls; and Quesadillas.

Appetizers to spice up holiday party

Recipes tested by Susan Seeger, Moorthi for the Detroit Free Press Test Kitchen.

PARMESAN CHEESE STRAWS

3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese, divided



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PARMESAN CHEESE STRAWS

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out the pastry to 6-by-20 inches. Whisk together the egg yolk and water. Brush the pastry with some of the egg mixture. Sprinkle the pastry with paprika and 2 tablespoons of the Parmesan. Spread the cheese with your hands to evenly cover the pastry. Fold the pastry in half crosswise and press down. Use a rolling pin if necessary to seal layers.

Brush the folded pastry with the egg mixture. Sprinkle on the remaining cheese and press into the top layer.

With a sharp knife, cut the pastry into 1/2-inch strips. Hold the ends of each strip between your fingers and twist the ends in opposite directions. Lay twisted strips onto greased baking sheets. Bake until crisp and golden, about 7 minutes. Remove from oven and cool on wire racks. Serve warm or at room temperature.

The straws can be baked up to 3 days in advance. Store in an airtight container at room temperature. Crisp in a preheated 400-degree oven for 3 minutes.

Makes 40 straws.

From "Hors D'oeuvres" by Eric Treuille and Victoria Blashford-Snell (DK Publishing, \$19.95)

TOMATO, BASIL AND OLIVE TARTLETS

Shortening for baking sheet

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4 ounces Emmentaler cheese, grated to yield 1 1/3 cups, see cook's note

3 medium vine-ripened tomatoes, seeded and chopped into 1/4-inch pieces

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons thinly sliced fresh basil, divided

2 ounces (about 25) black olives, pitted and thinly sliced into strips

3 large eggs

1 1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon milk

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Favorite 1 1/2-inch tartlet shells such as phyllo shells, see cook's note.

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Cook's note: Emmentaler is a cow's-milk cheese with a nutty, mild flavor. Any Swiss-style cheese with small holes may be substituted.

Miniature phyllo shells work well. Look for them in your grocery's freezer section.

Adapted from "Martha Stewart's Hors D'oeuvres Handbook" (Clarkson Potter, \$35)

SMOKED SALMON TEA SANDWICHES WITH DILL BUTTER

24 slices of cocktail bread

4 ounces of dill butter (see cook's note)

48 thinly sliced cucumber rounds

8 ounces thinly sliced smoked salmon, coarsely chopped, divided

Small dill sprigs for garnish

Place the bread on a serving tray. Butter each slice with about 1 teaspoon of the butter. Top each bread slice with 2 thin slices of cucumber. Evenly divide the salmon and place on top of the cucumber. Garnish with a dill sprig and serve.

Makes 24 appetizers.

Cook's note: To make dill butter, place 1 stick of softened, unsalted butter in a medium bowl. Add 1/4 cup softened cream cheese, 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind, 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, 2 tablespoons chopped parsley and 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt. Combine all the ingredients using the back of a fork or a wooden spoon. Refrigerator until ready to use.

Adapted from "Martha Stewart's Hors D'oeuvres Handbook" (Clarkson Potter, \$35)

STEAK AU POIVRE CROSTINI

2 1/2 tablespoons olive oil, divided

1 pound center-cut beef tenderloin, trimmed

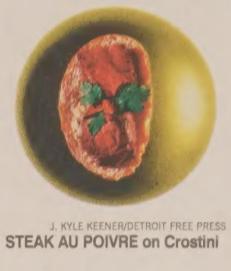
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

1/4 cup cognac or brandy

1/4 cups reduced sodium beef broth

2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream

24 crostini (little toasts — see



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STEAK AU POIVRE on Crostini

recipe)

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. In a medium oven-proof skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of the olive oil over high heat. Rub the tenderloin with the remaining 1/2 tablespoon of olive oil and season generously with salt and pepper. Add the beef to the pan and sear on all sides until brown, about 2 minutes per side. Place in the oven and roast until medium-rare, 7 to 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and transfer the beef to a baking sheet to rest. Cover with foil.

Meanwhile, reheat the skillet over high heat for 30 seconds. Remove the skillet from the heat, add the cognac, return to the heat, and ignite. Stand back, and as the flame dies, stir with a wooden spoon to loosen any particles in the bottom of the pan. After the cognac is reduced to 1 tablespoon, add the beef broth, simmering until reduced to 1/2 cup, about 12 to 15 minutes. Stir in the heavy whipping cream; set aside.

Using a very sharp knife, slice the tenderloin as thin as possible into 24 pieces. Place one slice on a crostini and top each with the warm sauce.

Makes 24 appetizers.

From "Martha Stewart's Hors D'oeuvres Handbook" (Clarkson Potter, \$35)

UNO MAS QUESADILLAS

Salsa:

1/4 cup seeded and finely

chopped plum tomatoes

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/3 cup cooked black beans, rinsed and drained

1/4 cup favorite picante sauce

1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley

1 tablespoon finely chopped red onion

2 teaspoons lime juice

1 teaspoon minced fresh garlic

Quesadillas:

8 flour tortillas (6 inches in diameter), divided

1/2 cup thinly sliced pepper jack cheese

1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions

Freshly ground black pepper to taste

3 tablespoons vegetable oil

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chopped plum tomatoes

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/3 cup cooked black beans, rinsed and drained

1/4 cup favorite picante sauce

1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley

1 tablespoon finely chopped red onion

Appetizers

FROM PAGE 1

In a large skillet heat the vegetable oil over medium heat. When hot, add the quesadillas to the skillet and cook until crispy golden brown, about 2 minutes on each side. Remove and transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain and cool slightly. Cut each into 8 wedges. Top the wedges with the salsa or serve it on the side.

Makes 32 wedges.

Adapted from "Cocktail Food" by Mary Corpening Barber and Sara Corpening Whiteford (Chronicle Books, \$16.95).

HERBED CHEESE SPREAD

8 ounces low-fat cream cheese, room temperature

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

3 tablespoons white wine vinegar

3 tablespoons dry white wine

3/4 cup chilled heavy cream

2 shallots, finely chopped

6 fresh flat-leaf parsley sprigs, leaves only, finely chopped

6 fresh dill sprigs, finely chopped

10 fresh chive stalks, finely chopped

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

In a medium bowl, place the cream cheese and mash using a fork. Add the oil, vinegar and wine, mixing until well combined and creamy.

In a small bowl, whip the cream until stiff peaks form. Fold into the cheese mixture. Mix in the shallots, parsley, dill, chives and salt and pepper.

Transfer to a serving bowl and chill thoroughly before serving. The spread can be stored in a covered container in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 days.

Makes 2 cups.

From "Dips, Salsa & Spreads" by Judith Dunham and Jane Horn (Collins Publishers)

WONTON WONDERS

12 wonton wrappers (3-by-3½ inches), cut into quarters

Vegetable oil to brush on wontons, about 2 tablespoons

6 cups water

2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided

1 pound (about 3 medium) boneless, skinless chicken breasts, washed, patted dry

1/4 cup Major Grey's chutney

1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons plain yogurt

3 tablespoons crunchy peanut butter

1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

1 1/2 teaspoons green curry paste

1/4 cup chopped green onions for garnish



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WONTON WONDERS

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.

Place the wonton wrappers on a work surface and brush lightly with the oil. Mold the wontons, oiled-side up, into the bottoms of

miniature (1-inch) muffin tins. Bake until light brown, about 5 minutes. Remove from oven, let cool slightly and remove from the muffin tins. Cool on a wire rack. Place on a baking sheet and cover tightly with plastic wrap until ready to assemble.

In a medium saucepan, heat the water and 1½ teaspoons kosher salt over medium heat. Just before the water comes to a boil, add the chicken and simmer until cooked through, about 12 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a paper towel-lined plate and pat dry. Cool the chicken slightly, then finely chop and season with the remaining ½ teaspoon kosher salt. In a medium bowl mix together the chutney, yogurt, peanut butter, lime juice and curry paste. Add the chicken and mix well. Refrigerate until slightly chilled.

To assemble: Place 1 heaping teaspoon of the chicken mixture in each wonton cup and garnish with green onions. Serve at room temperature.

Makes 48 appetizers.

Cook's note: The wonton cups can be baked up to 3 days in advance and stored in an airtight container. The chicken mixture can be made up to 1 day in advance. Let sit at room temperature for 30 minutes before serving. The wonton cups can be filled up to 1 hour in advance.

From "Cocktail Food" by Mary Corpening Barber and Sara Corpening Whiteford (Chronicle Books, \$16.95).

GINGERED CHICKEN CAKES WITH CILANTRO-LIME MAYONNAISE

Shortening for baking sheet

Cakes:

2 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, about ¾ pound

2 tablespoons fish sauce

1-inch piece of fresh ginger, peeled, coarsely chopped

3 green onions, washed, ends removed, coarsely chopped

1 large garlic clove, peeled, crushed

Salt to taste

1/4 to ½ teaspoon hot red pepper sauce or to taste

Topping:

4 tablespoons mayonnaise, low-fat or regular

1/2 cup cilantro, finely chopped

Juice of 1 lime

2 tablespoons diced mango, optional



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GINGERED CHICKEN CAKES with Cilantro-Lime Mayonnaise

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Using shortening lightly grease one large or two small baking sheets; set aside.

To prepare the cakes: In a food processor fitted with the steel blade, place all the cake ingredients and pulse until finely chopped. Divide the mixture into 20 walnut-size pieces. With wet hands, shape each piece into a ball and flatten into a cake. Place the cakes on the prepared baking sheet. Place in

the oven and cook until golden on each side and cooked through. Remove and set aside to cool to warm or room temperature.

Meanwhile, make the topping. In a small bowl combine the mayonnaise, cilantro and lime juice. Spoon a small dollop on each cake and, if desired, garnish each cake with the diced mango.

Makes 20 cakes.

From "Hors D'Oeuvres" by Eric Treuille and Victoria Blashford-Snell (DK Publishing, \$19.95).

SMOKED SALMON MOUSSE

14 ounces smoked salmon, diced

1/4 cup plain, nonfat yogurt

1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

2 tablespoons paprika

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 lemon

½-inch-thick cucumber rounds (1 large cucumber) for serving

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SMOKED SALMON MOUSSE

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SHRIMP TAPAS

1 pound (about 32) uncooked medium shrimp

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 heaping tablespoons chopped canned chipotle peppers in adobo sauce

Salt for sprinkling

Peel and devein the shrimp, leaving the tails intact; set aside.

In a large nonstick skillet, melt the butter over medium heat; do not let brown. Add the chipotle peppers and shrimp. Increase the heat to high.

Stirring constantly, cook the shrimp until just firm, about 5 minutes. Do not overcook. Sprinkle with salt and toss.

Cut the shrimp and sauce on 8 small plates or one large platter and serve with wooden picks.

Makes about 32 pieces of shrimp.

From "Entertaining 1-2-3" by Rozanne Gold (Little, Brown and Company, \$27.95).

MOLASSES-GLAZED COCKTAIL RIBS

2 pounds baby-back or spareribs

1/4 cup cider vinegar

2 tablespoons unsulphured molasses

2/3 cup maple syrup

1/2 cup Dijon mustard

1/4 cup harissa (see note)

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Cut the spareribs in half lengthwise (it's best to have a meat cutter do this); then into individual platters. Set aside.

In a large bowl combine the vinegar, molasses, maple syrup, mustard and harissa. Add the ribs, cover and allow them to marinate for 1 hour in the refrigerator.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

Transfer the ribs from the marinade to large baking sheets with at least a 1-inch rim; reserve the marinade. Season the ribs with kosher salt and pepper to taste.

Cook the ribs, basting twice during the first half hour with the remaining marinade, turning the ribs over after a half-hour. The ribs should cook for a total of about 45 minutes, until glazed and cooked through. Do not baste during the last 10 minutes of cooking. Discard any remaining marinade.

Makes about 3 dozen.

Cook's note: Harissa is Middle Eastern hot sauce usually made with hot chiles, garlic, cumin, coriander, caraway and olive oil. Look for it in the ethnic section of some grocery stores and specialty stores. Substitute your favorite hot chile sauce.

Adapted from "Martha Stewart's Hors D'Oeuvres Handbook" (Clarkson Potter, \$35).

RICOTTA, WALNUT AND CHIVE BUNDLES

¾ cup ricotta cheese, low-fat or regular

1/3 cup walnut halves

2 ounces Emmentaler or Swiss cheese, shredded

Grated rind of 1 lemon

Pinch of nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

2 tablespoons snipped fresh chives

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

6 sheets phyllo dough

1 tablespoon peanut or vegetable oil

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RICOTTA, WALNUT AND CHIVE BUNDLES

Roughly chop half of the smoked salmon and place it in the work bowl of a food processor fitted with the steel blade. Add the yogurt, cayenne, paprika and olive oil. Grate the zest of the lemon into the processor bowl, then halve the lemon and squeeze it to measure 2 tablespoons of juice. Add the juice to the bowl and process the ingredients for as long as necessary to form a thin puree.

Transfer to a bowl. Chop the remaining salmon and fold in.

Place a dollop of the mousse on a cucumber round for serving.

Makes about 2 cups.

Adapted from "Hors D'Oeuvres & Appetizers" from Williams-Sonoma Kitchen Library (Time-Life Books, \$14.95).

LEMON CHILI SHRIMP STICKS

2 garlic cloves, peeled, crushed

½-inch piece of fresh ginger, peeled, grated

2 tablespoons finely chopped cilantro

½ tablespoon Chinese hot chili sauce

1 tablespoon light soy sauce

1 tablespoon honey

3 tablespoons lemon juice

20 raw medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

20 wooden skewers (6 inches long), soaked in water for at least 30 minutes

In a large, non-metallic bowl, combine the garlic, ginger, cilantro, chili sauce, soy sauce, honey and lemon juice. Add the shrimp and toss in the marinade to coat each one well. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. Thread 1 or 2 shrimp on each skewer.

Preheat the broiler. Place the shrimp on the broiler pan and broil until they turn pink and are opaque, about 3 minutes on each side. Serve hot, warm or at room temperature.

Makes 20 shrimp.

Cook's note: Marinate the

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LEMON CHILI SHRIMP STICKS

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. In a food processor fitted with the steel blade place the ricotta, walnuts and cheese. Pulse to finely chop and combine the ingredients. Add the lemon zest, nutmeg, cinnamon, chives and salt and pepper to taste. Mix well.

Cut the phyllo sheets in half crosswise. Place one half sheet on a work surface, keeping the remaining sheets covered with a clean, damp towel so they do not dry out. On half of the sheet, spread one-twelfth of the cheese mixture in a rectangle about 3 inches long and ¾-inches wide, leaving the bottom edge and side uncovered. Fold the bottom edge over the mixture, then fold in the sides and roll up into a cylinder about 1½-inches in diameter. Repeat with the remaining sheets and cheese mixture. Alternatively, roll the phyllo around the cheese mixture to desired shape, such as triangles or small bundles.

Preheat the broiler. Place the eggplants on a baking sheet and

place the wonton wrappers on individual muffin tin cups with olive oil. Place in oven and bake about 8 minutes or until golden. Remove and cool.

Meanwhile, in a large nonstick skillet, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the mushrooms, shallots and onions. Cook, stirring often, until the mushrooms are tender. Add the cabbage. Cover and cook over medium heat, stirring often, until the cabbage is tender.

Stir the lemon juice into the mixture after it is cooked.

Evenly divide the mixture among the wonton cups with a spoon.

Makes 16.

Adapted from "Dips, Salsa & Appetizers" from Williams-Sonoma Kitchen Library (Time-Life Books, \$14.95).

SESAME-EGGPLANT PUREE

2 medium eggplants

2 large cloves garlic, peeled, finely minced

1/4 cup tahini

1/3 to ½ cup fresh lemon juice or to taste

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

3 tablespoons pine nuts, toasted

3 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

1 teaspoon cumin

Cayenne pepper to taste

2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds, optional

J. KYLE KEENER/DETROIT FREE PRESS
SESAME EGGPLANT PUREE served on Herbed Pita Sticks

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Everyone knows someone who's taken a fall and fractured a hip. Perhaps you've had a hip fracture yourself. If you have, then you know how much it can change your lifestyle - sometimes permanently. Every year there are 300,000 hip fractures related to osteoporosis in America and the consequences are staggering. 20% of those who suffer from a hip fracture die within the first year. Fifty percent of those who survive will never live or walk independently again. 25% will require constant nursing care. These statistics underscore the importance of regaining strength, balance, and walking ability in order to resume an active, independent life. Many studies have associated the use of weight training with the ability to gain strength and improve balance. In fact, one study has suggested that even people in their nineties can increase their strength up to 50% through training and exercise. So when you choose a program to increase bone density, helping to combat osteoporosis. Thus, an exercise program that emphasizes strengthening to increase balance, coordination, bone density and walking ability has the potential to improve a person's functional independence and decrease the risk of future falls and fractures. Until now, a post-fracture exercise class has not been available in our community. However, beginning January 2002, OsteoLife and Foundation for Osteoporosis Research and Education (FORE) will be starting a new exercise class for women and men with osteoporosis and a history of fractures. The program has been designed by three local physical therapists to develop balance, coordination, strength, endurance and walking ability. It is slated to be held in Walnut Creek. Participants will be part of a three-ingredient exercise program: strength training, stretching and education on the importance of functional fitness. If you or a friend are interested in improving your physical abilities, please call Kristen Card at ORE at (510) 832-2663 for more information.

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50% of hip fracture sufferers will never walk or live independently again. If you or a loved one has had a previous fracture below the waist and impeded walking ability, join our exercise program today.

Beginning January 2002, OsteoLife and FORE are conducting a study on the effects of an exercise program on:

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- Ability to walk
- Quality of life
- Fear of falling

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- Physical Therapist led exercise program
- Bone density testing

Take this free opportunity to improve your life. Space is limited - call today. For more information call Kristen Card at (510) 832-2663 x14.

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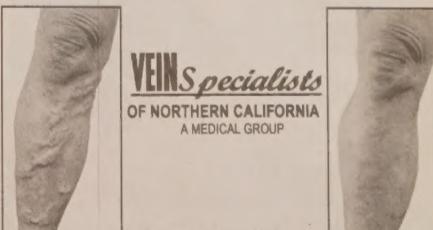
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This year, get crafty and avoid those pesky credit-card bills next month

BY BEVERLY BUNDY

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Economic reports are signaling that Santa isn't the only one with a workshop this holiday season. More of us are making our gifts and decorations, saving our credit cards and our sanity as we avoid the stores.

Craft and shelter stores are reaping the gains of the season as folks stay home to create and get to know their families a little better. We think those are both very good things.

The lunch mate

We all have one. The office spouse.

Sometimes it's a person of the same sex, sometimes not. Sometimes it's an out-of-office friendship, too, often not. But, it's the relationship that's always there for you during the work week.

He brings you a soda when you're under a crushing deadline. You run her paycheck over to the bank when you see her meeting has run late. She walks around the block with you after that blowup with the boss.

For this important person, too often unsung in our slog through corporate America, we present the lunch mate.

We took a prefab corrugated-paper container and filled it with all those office essentials that your employer fails to provide.

Wet wipes for the early morning post-doughnut cleanup; a roll of quarters for the office vending machine; a box of stain-remover sheets for that lunchtime ketchup accident; a candy bar for the 3 p.m. slumps; and an IOU for a martini the size of the Zulu at the watering hole nearest the office.

Your office spouse knows you care. But, as with the one at home, it's nice to be acknowledged.

Little treasures

In a former generation, she would have been the family's maiden aunt. The sister who never married but knew how to sew and cook like a dream. She worked, and on the weekends she was there for her parents so the other (now grown) children could go on with their lives.

Your friend isn't quite that pitiful, but she could get more zest out of life.

She loves to cook but would never dream of splurging on that cut of lamb she read about in "Food and Wine." An extravagant big-time restaurant? Oh, not this month, well, in fact, not this year. Champagne

for New Year's? — oh, no, sparkling wine will be just fine.

Snatch off those glasses, Miss Jones, and let's try something different.

How about some saffron, expensive for sure, but isn't your mom friend worth it? Or how about vanilla beans — and we mean good vanilla beans, not the ones that have been petrified in those silly test tubes under the glaring lights of the supermarket for lord knows how long.

Buy treats like these at stores that have turnover — spice stores or grocers that sell spices in bulk. Make sure they've been stored appropriately — away from glaring lights and sun, and in an air-tight environment.

And wrap it up unexpectedly. Miss Jones should have some glitz left over after the party.

We painted one of those ubiquitous mint tins and paved it with rhinestones — some might say it's tacky; we say, hey, girls just want to have fun. To be a bit more decorative, paint a papier-mâché box and then trace a design with a gold paint pen.

Fruit favors

We forget in these days of all food, all the time, that there are some produce items that have a natural season. And several of them fall ripe from the trees right about now.

Persimmons, Ruby Red grapefruit and pomegranates are glorious with their tawny to garnet skins rosy with the cold days of winter. Their rich colors recall the Renaissance, without the cold marble floors and the drafts.

But, because their season is so short, we aren't terribly familiar with how to use these luscious jewels, aside from cutting open one of those Texas treasures to eat on the half shell for breakfast.

So, gather up an armful of fruit at the supermarket and pop it into just about any old container — the fruit's so gorgeous, who's going to notice if it's wearing tennis shoes?

But take some time, do a little research and put together some recipe cards to package with your gift. The Internet is the easiest place to go; simply type the name of the fruit you're looking for in the address bar, and away you go. Print out recipes, print out photos or illustrations of the fruit and laminate them together with cold-stick sheets.

Run a ribbon through the whole shebang, and you've got yourself one thoughtful, artful gift.

For example, we printed a

No postage required

The older I get, the less I want to receive gifts. My house is full, my memory is fuzzier by the hour, and I no longer want to house an object that someone thinks I'd like to look upon every day.

Call me humbugish, but every year I become more fond of gift certificates. In fact, I like them as gifts second only to stock certificates.

The most important people in our lives — the teachers, the caregivers — don't get thanked enough by most of us. We rush by in the morning, hustle back at dusk, murmuring quick thank-yous, and bolt out the door.

This village that helps us survive the week deserves more than another apple doodad, another fruitcake or, worse yet, the always good for a third-grade crackup, eau de toilette.

I like gift certificates, and I hope these folks do, too, because they'll be getting them until my child is in graduate school.

So what kind of gift certificate do you give an important person in your life whom you don't know well?

Grocery-store certificates are great. Everyone eats, after all. But there's more to be had at grocery stores these days. They can use it for crafts supplies for the class or juice boxes for field day, if they're so inclined. They can treat themselves to a bouquet of flowers — the kind they like. And if it's one of those days, they can use it for a bottle of wine.

Coffee shops are another good bet. They can get the motor running first thing in the morning and they're a great place to wind down afterward.

Doughnut shops. Who doesn't like doughnuts? She can share with the class, or she can treat the teachers' lounge, or, if it's one of those days, she can eat six in the parking lot all by her ownself.

So, you've got the gift. Take that \$5-birthday-card onus off of it by making the envelope personal.

If you're computer enabled, go to desktoppub.about.com/library/weekly/enable.pdf and print out the envelope template that you find there. Print it on card stock if you have it. (If you don't have it, you can buy sheets individually for pennies at print shops and office-supply stores.)

Once you've printed the envelope pattern on the paper, decide what you want to print on the envelope.

For example, we printed a

child's picture over and over on an envelope for his teacher.

Or, download pictures of TV shows and films like "Welcome Back, Kotter," "Our Miss Brooks" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." If your teacher is made of sterner stuff, you could use "Goodbye Mr. Chips" and "Dead Poet's Society."

Use the same concept for the neighbor who retrieves your newspaper when it rains early in the morning, subbing photos from sitcoms that feature neighbors like "My Favorite Martian," "I Love Lucy" and "The Bob Newhart Show."

For the piano teacher, download some sheet music or pictures of Beethoven or one of those other German guys.

Lay the photos on the back side of the sheet with template printed on it, print them out, and you're almost done. Cut around the template, glue the envelope together where the instructions say, and you're done.

You can also do this the old-fashioned way by using pretty sheets from magazines. Carefully dismember an envelope and use it as your pattern to trace on the sheet. Cut the sheet, fold and glue.

Function follows form

Sometimes, function follows form.

We were so taken by the brocade in the fabric stores this season that we had to find a use for it. We vetoed re-covering the living-room sofa. Mah-jongg pajamas seemed a little frivolous. Pillows would be too slippery — as in slippery.

So we covered a box. Because the fabric has two usable sides, we used one for the bottom of the box, the other for the top, attaching it all with that fabulous two-sided peel-and-stick tape.

And then, to fill it, we went with a good old Hershey's favorite that has been around at least 35 years — peanut blossoms. The flavors have nothing to do with the mysteries of the East, but we love the little turban shapes the Kisses make in the soft, slightly chewy dough. Sort of an Asian theme happening here.

Just think of it as a living-room sofa saved.

PEANUT BLOSSOMS

8 ounces milk chocolate candy kisses

½ cup solid shortening
¾ cup creamy peanut butter
1/3 cup white sugar
1/3 cup packed light brown sugar

1 egg

2 tablespoons milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1½ cups all-purpose flour

1½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

¼ cup white sugar, for decoration

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Remove wrappers from chocolate pieces.

Beat shortening and peanut butter in large bowl until well blended. Add 1/3 cup granulated sugar and brown sugar; beat until light and fluffy. Add egg, milk and vanilla; beat well. Stir together flour, baking soda and salt; gradually beat into peanut butter mixture.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in granulated sugar; place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned.

Immediately press a chocolate piece into the center of each cookie; cookie will crack around edges. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely.

Yields 4 dozen.

Hershey's

Friends and good fortune

These fortune cookies (recipe below) are as much fun to give as they are to receive.

Because you make them yourself and tuck your own very personal fortune inside, you can be as naughty or as nice as you'd like.

Enlist a family member, because it takes some coordination to do the folding and twisting before the cookies become hard.

We disassembled a plastic, store-bought take-out container and used it as the pattern for our large box. Then we glued the paper to the plastic box shell and refolded the whole construction and glued it together, using brads dressed up with tassels for the handle.

You can buy box templates in the rubber-stamp section of craft stores, but you can also get them free from the Internet. Two good sites are www.mirkwooddesigns.com and www.bidonovan.com. Print the patterns on a piece of card stock and trace onto a piece of decorative paper. Cut the paper, glue to the card stock, and you're an origami master.

FORTUNE COOKIES

2/3 cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons ground ginger
3 large egg whites
1 cup powdered sugar, sifted
1 stick plus 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, melted

2-inch cookie cutter or
3 to 4 cookie cutters
and lightly floured

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup granulated sugar

1/3 cup unsalted butter

1/2 cup white sugar

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup white sugar

Holiday cooks find help on phone hot lines and online

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Free telephone services and food-safety specialists offer a variety of special answers to cooking and food-safety questions during holiday preparation times. Here are some to choose from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Meat and Poultry Hotline: 800-535-4540. Food safety specialists answer calls about meat and poultry preparation and cooking questions, around Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. Recorded information is available 24 hours a day, the same number. Also available in Spanish. On the Net: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

Butterball Turkey Talk-Line: 800-473-8372. Home economists and nutritionists answer holiday food questions, in both English and Spanish, for callers in the United States and Canada. All callers receive a free calendar, with Dec. 21, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. Automated assistance is provided after hours. Hearing- and

speech-impaired assistance 800-TDD-3848. On the Net: <http://www.butterball.com>

Foster Farms Turkey Helpline: 800-255-7227. Helpline is available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST, Monday through Friday. After-hours automated service is available. Free brochures and recipes are offered. On the Net: <http://www.fosterfarms.com>

Land O'Lakes Holiday Baking Line: 800-782-9606. Baking specialists are available for questions or suggestions through Dec. 24, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST, 7 days a week. Free recipe leaflet for all callers or Web site visitors. On the Net: <http://www.landolakes.com>

Perdue consumer help line: 800-473-7383. Consumer-relations representatives answer cooking, storage and other questions about poultry products weekdays year-round (except Christmas Day) 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST.

Free booklet offer with tips on safe handling of poultry. On the Net: <http://www.perdue.com>

Dial-A-Chef Holiday Hotline:

888-723-4468. Provided by Shady Brook Farms, a 24-hour, 7 days-a-week, automated culinary guidance and recipe service offered by famous chefs through Jan. 1. On the Net: <http://www.dialachef.com>

Empire Kosher poultry customer hotline: 800-367-4734. Help is offered by consumer-affairs representatives year-round Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST; Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST. Program offers recipes, newsletter, video, tips on defrosting and cooking poultry. Closed Jewish and secular holidays. On the Net: <http://www.empirekosher.com>

Ocean Spray consumer help line: 800-662-3263. Year-round, weekdays (but not Christmas Day, New Year's Day and other major holidays) 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. Consumer department staff field questions on cranberries, offer recipes, cooking tips, nutritional information, menu-planning worksheets, product information. On the Net: <http://www.oceanspray.com>

Reynolds Turkey Tips Line is 800-745-4000. A year-round 24-hour

automated hot line; through Dec. 31, offers advice on turkey defrosting, preparation and cooking options, plus free brochure and recipes.

Year-round Web site: <http://www.reynoldskitchens.com>

Cook's Illustrated magazine's site features detailed guidance and recipes, for preparing turkey and all the trimmings, plus dessert, with bright step-by-step visuals: <http://www.turkeyhelp.com>

The National Turkey Federation Web site has recipes and cooking tips among its year-round general information.

http://www.eatturkey.com

Includes a holiday entertaining guide.

http://www.mccormick.com

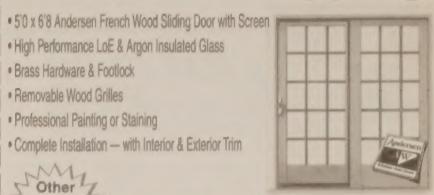
Offers holiday recipes, with tips from professional chefs and cookbook writers, from turkey through desserts.

http://www.starchef.com

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http://www.southernfood.about.com

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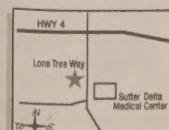
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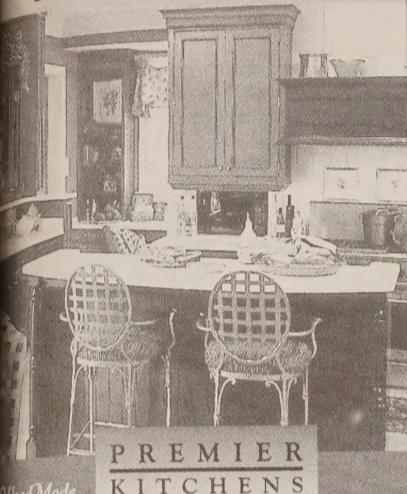
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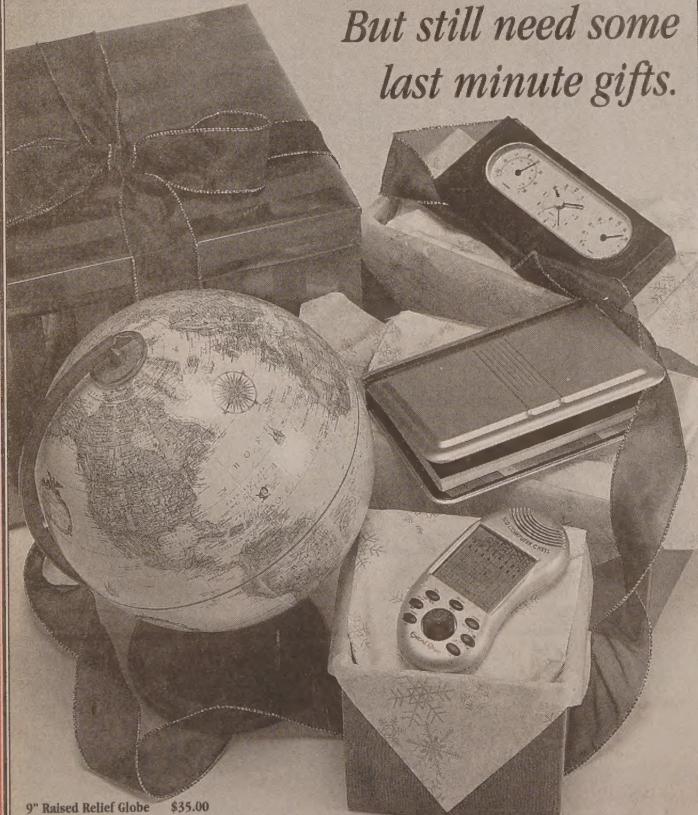
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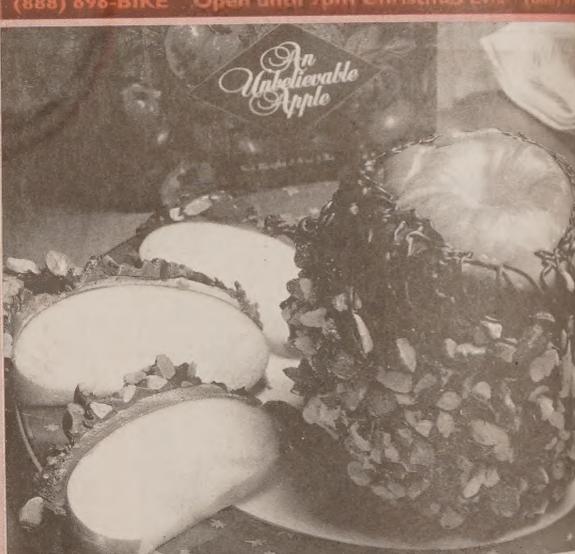
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THE JOURNAL

December 21, 2001

PUBLICITY USE ONLY

Martin Snapp Albany school kids brighten Solano Avenue for holidays [A7]

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Inside Recommended children's books for holiday giving [A12]

Free, low-cost bus pass plan approved

AC Transit may offer
or reduced-cost rides
to low-income families
under 2-year project

By John Simerman
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of students from
low-income families will ride AC

Transit buses for free, while others will get cut-rate student passes under a pilot program hashed out this week by regional transportation officials.

Officials said they hope to start offering free and reduced-price bus passes in September.

The two-year pilot program was approved Wednesday by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, ending weeks of

wrangling between the regional planning body and AC Transit.

The two agencies sparred over who should pay for a plan that supporters hope will reduce school absences, particularly at the end of the month when poor families often run low on cash.

The \$2 million total from MTC is less than the \$12 million that state Assemblywoman Dion Aroner, D-Berkeley, one of the

bus pass program's main proponents, was asking for.

Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia said that despite the fact that the plan is not as far-reaching as the one he and the supporters had initially supported, the bus pass pilot program could make a big difference for the students, more than 100 of whom lobbied the commission for bus passes at a committee meeting

last week.

Under the plan, AC Transit is responsible for coming up with a \$1 million yearly match, which it can pay for from its own money, or with the aid of county transportation funds, such as those from Measure B and Measure C.

MTC officials last week suggested a more modest pilot project for a portion of the AC Tran-

sit district, which runs from Richmond to Fremont. Under the new deal, all 100,000 middle- and high school students within the district can participate.

Those who qualify for federal school lunch subsidies — as many as 30,000 students — can get free bus passes. The rest will pay \$15 per month, compared

See BUS, Page A10

DEVELOPMENTS TAKING SHAPE AT EL CERRITO PLAZA

portion of creek flows into city ownership

The dedication of a portion of Cerrito Creek by city owners puts long-awaited restoration efforts in motion

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Hopes that a winding, stable and healthy creek will complement revitalized El Cerrito Plaza received a big boost this week when the City Council unanimously accepted ownership of creek and land on each side. The council also unanimously accepted a \$350,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to help restore the creek and move the go-ahead for the city manager to contract for creek design, work and stabilization.

Wolfe Mason Associates, a Bay-based landscape architect, developed preliminary design plans for Cerrito Creek restoration for the city in 1997. The creek runs along the south of the Plaza and marks the city-El Cerrito border. The city proposed to develop the plan and construction drawings for Cerrito Creek for a fee of \$178,000.

Given the extensive experience that Wolfe Mason Associates has in creek restoration projects throughout the East Bay, their knowledge of this particular project, they are the most qualified firm for this work," city development director Bill Kleinmach said in a report to the council.

In a letter to the city last month, Sarah Tamblyn, senior associate of Wolfe Mason Associates, said the \$350,000 should be enough to design and "install basic renovation" of Cerrito Creek. Friends of Five Creeks, a creek advocacy group, has pledged to contribute up to \$100,000 and volunteer labor to the project.

Plaza co-owner Regency Centers offered the dedication of the creek and the city for creek restoration as part of the shopping center's reconstruction. Creek restoration advocates hope a restored Cerrito Creek will someday be part of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, linked to the Bay Greenway. The second phase of the creek restoration

See CREEK, Page A10



AT THE EL CERRITO Farmer's Market last Saturday Amanprit Randhawa, at right, with her sister Bhavkaran, grabs a slice of orange from a fruit stand. The market is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

New investors buy Plaza restaurant site

By Chris Treadaway
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — As the renovated Plaza shopping center takes shape, it is also taking on an additional owner. Two investors have purchased a choice portion of the property fronting San Pablo Avenue where a high-profile restaurant is slated to open in May.

Investors Albert and Judith Lamperti are the newest partial owners of the Plaza, buying the pad designated for a 6,500-square-foot Macaroni Grill at the shopping center's southeast corner for \$1.575 million.

Multiple ownership at the Plaza has been an issue in the past. The property was divided between Longs Drugs and former owners Emporium-Capwell and the Bilak Co., and disagreements among the three stymied

efforts to renovate the 341,140-square-foot shopping center. The center now has four owners in the mix, with the new investors joining Albertson's, Longs Drugs and majority owner Regency Centers.

Despite past travails at the Plaza Regency Vice President Tom Engberg said the purchase is "not unusual" at a shopping center. "We're aware of the issues that come from multiple ownership of a property," he said. Deeded restrictions allow Regency to "retain control over what happens with the building," he said. "To the public it's seamless."

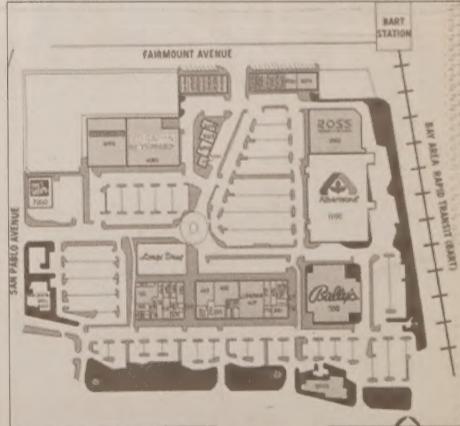
The addition of a new owner provides new capital for Regency, which has seen costs of Plaza construction exceed expectations. The firm has also extended its finances with the purchase of

another plaza on the Interstate 80 corridor, the Powell Street Plaza in Emeryville.

Engberg said the rising cost of construction in the Bay Area and unanticipated obstacles typical of any major project put the tab for Plaza construction beyond the firm's expectations, but that it had been offset by better-than-expected rents at the center.

The center is about 90 percent leased, he said, and talks are continuing with prospective tenants. The opening this month of the new Albertson's was preceded by the opening of a 9,267-square-foot Pier One Imports home decor store. Next to open will be the row of smaller shops fronting Fairmount Avenue next to the Ross Store, then the line of shops next to Bed Bath & Beyond.

See PLAZA, Page A9



THE PLAZA site map shows the restaurant site purchased by investors (lower left), and the vacated Albertson's building that may be used for a Bally's Fitness Center or another retail use.

Albany school board recall effort fizzles out as deadline passes

By Matt Petersen
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — An effort to recall two school district board members has apparently failed, ac-

cording to the Alameda County Registrar's Office.

A group of activists led by Albany elementary school parent John Kendall missed the 5 p.m.

Dec. 12 deadline to file the signatures of 25 percent of the approximately 9,000 voters required to put the recall of former board president Marsha Skinner and

board member Bill Cain on the ballot.

Another petition seems unlikely since Skinner's term expires next year. Cain's term runs

through 2004.

In the middle of a heated teachers contract dispute in June,

See RECALL, Page A9

Afghans reveal a culture unseen by Americans

By Tom Lochner

STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — The Afghanistan of Tania Farzana's childhood was a peaceful place where an Afghan was an Afghan, whether Pashtun, Tajik, Dari, Hazara or other.

The Afghanistan of Arlene Farzana's young adulthood was a place of green fertile valleys and fruit trees surrounded by icy peaks, where female mountain climbers from America and Europe met for sport.

To Kabir Howaida, it was a composer's delight, a crossroads of musical currents from Europe, South Asia and the Middle East.

To Shahi Sadat, it was a place of poetry, befitting the birthplace of the 13th-century Sufi mystic al-Jalaluddin Rumi.

And to Zemaryalai Tarzi, the former director of the Kabul Museum, it was an archaeologist's smorgasbord of ancient Greek, Zoroastrian, Chinese, Buddhist and Muslim art and architecture.

Farzana, Blum, Howaida, Sadat and Tarzi — the latter represented by his daughter, Nadia — were at Berkeley High School's Florence Schwimley Theater on Sunday to testify that there once was — and may one day soon re-emerge — an Afghanistan apart from guns and dynamical multitudes.

What does Afghanistan look like to Americans? All they see is war, refugees, men in long beards and women that are covered," said Tania Farzana's sister, Rega Farzana, who tutors Afghan children in Fremont.

Afghanistan: A Cultural Journey combined poetry, music, arts and crafts, a fashion show and a crafts bazaar with a message of mourning for the recent past and hope for the future.

More than 300 people sat in quiet silence in the auditorium as Sadat recited, "A young mother talks to her dead child, my little baby wake up," from his poem inspired by a news photograph of a mother cradling a baby bleeding from the head.

They were equally rapt when Nadia Tarzi showed before-and-after slides of the fifth-century



HERMAN BUSTAMANTE/RJS

This dress is typical of what an Afghan woman would wear at a celebration, said organizers of Sunday's event on Afghan culture.

great Buddha, a 175-foot-tall sculpture hewn out of a cliff face in Bamiyan province and dynamited by the Taliban earlier this year.

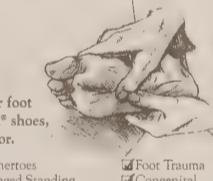
They gasped at the beauty of the slides, by Diane and Edwin Bernbaum in 1973 and Debra Denker in 1975, of terraced fields, busy markets, desert and mountain landscapes, and faces of everyday Afghans.

They clapped as Howaida on piano, accompanied by Marai Arifi on tabla, played danceable Afghan tunes, and Howaida concluded with an impassioned "God bless America and God bless her caring people."

CORRECTION

An editorial in last week's Journal stated that the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency was reactivated by the City Council. The vote was made by council members in their other capacity as the agency board. It also stated that the action was taken two months ago. The vote actually took place at the first meeting in December.

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Motoring scofflaws targeted by Albany Police

Life is becoming more difficult and costly for scofflaws who treat Marin Avenue and Buchanan Street in Albany as a racetrack while ignoring red lights.

In a recent traffic task force operation police issued two citations for speeding in a school zone on Marin Avenue and six for running the red light at Marin and San Pablo avenues, according to Lt. Greg Bone who heads the patrol division which includes traffic enforcement.

The citations were given between 7 and 11 a.m. Ten other motorists were cited for a total of 26 violations as follows: eight for failure to observe stop signs; one illegal U-turn; four registration violations; four for no proof of insurance; and one for failure to wear a seat belt.

Nine of the 18 cited were Albany residents. This is a blow to many proud Albanians who like to believe that most people driving Marin and Buchanan like the Daytona 500 are out-of-town commuters. The police have long been skeptical of this civic jingoism.

I asked Bone if people coming into the intersection on a yellow light were ticketed for running a red one. "This is not a borderline thing," he said. "The only motorists cited were those who entered the intersection after the light turned red. But when you see a yellow light it is an advisory that you are supposed to stop and not enter the intersection."

There was a time when the vast majority of drivers understood this. In recent years, however, people increasingly interpret the yellow light as a signal to speed up to get through the intersection before the light changes to red.

These drivers are therefore going faster than they were before they saw the yellow light, and the chances are they were speeding then. Consequently, accidents have become more numerous and more serious.

Several of the worst I have

seen were at the intersection of Ashbury and Fairmount avenues in El Cerrito. People tend to speed west on Fairmount and fail to see the light. (Some may be partially blinded by the sun in late afternoon.) Like all intersections, this one should be entered with extreme caution even if you have a green light.

Albany Police Chief Larry Murdo says his department has conducted eight Traffic Task Force operations targeting speeders, red-light runners, and pedestrian crosswalk violators. "We do at least two a month now," he said. "We generally have to bring in an officer on an overtime basis, and we have to have a second dispatcher. We select officers who have shown they are particularly good at this sort of thing."

One of these officers is Dave Lembi, who is being moved to the day shift next month to provide more traffic control on a regular basis. Lembi is one of the department's top-ranking ticketers of speeders and other automotive offenders. Like Officer John Geissberger, another ticket ace now on this shift, Lembi's primary concern will be traffic control.

"Next month we are planning an eight-hour Task Force operation aimed at unlicensed driver's" Bone said. "Motorists stopped on an observed violation will be cited or arrested and their vehicles towed." A tow truck will be on standby, and additional officers will be brought in.

"We have taken a much more aggressive stance toward moving violations in the last two to three years," Bone said. He believes that this, combined with the special Task Force operations begun last July, have slowed traffic and made the streets safer. "We are working on this routinely with every officer on every shift," he said.

Albany police also use plain clothes officers in cross walks to apprehend motorists who fail to recognize pedestrian



DAVE GREER

Man About Town

rights. These police decoys are deployed in many Bay Area cities including Berkeley where crosswalk violations are so frequent the city now provides pedestrians with orange flags to halt traffic at some locations. Even so, one flag-bearer has been hit by a car at this writing.

Failure to stop for a pedestrian in a cross walk brings a \$77 ticket. A red light citation is \$271; ignoring a stop sign costs \$104. And here are the speeding fines: \$103 for one to 15 miles per hour over the limit; \$162 for 16 to 25 mph over the limit; \$270 for 26 mph and above over the limit.

So if the siren sounds for you in Albany, don't say the Man About Town didn't warn you.

THE MUSIC MAN: The man of the hour for me at the grand opening of the Albertson's superstore in the El Cerrito Plaza was Brian Barfield, director of bands at El Cerrito High School.

Barfield's plan was that he and four of his students would play at the opening before the ceremonies began. Unfortunately, neither the trumpeter nor the saxophonist showed. That left Barfield playing trombone solos backed by Stephanie Shih on electric piano and John Adams on drums.

The slide trombone is a wonderful instrument, but not many have the ability or confidence to stand up before a crowd and solo for the whole gig. The usual choice for this demanding work is a nimbler instrument more at home higher up the scale like the trumpet, clarinet, or saxophone.

However, Barfield rose to the occasion and gave first-rate renditions of a number of tunes including the Duke Ellington

See GREER, Page A8

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Remember those lost — keep 'homelights' burning

Amid the front-page stories of continued energy concerns, it's been suggested that perhaps those concerns should be the impetus to have a solemn, darkened Christmas to honor those lost in the attacks of Sept. 11.

But of all years, this is the Christmas that should not go dark. At a time when the sadness of the last three months is still palpable for many residents, the holidays give us an opportunity to smile, to laugh and to honor those we love, and loved, with a warmth and gladness of spirit.

This is the time of the year when things smell better, when people smile more, when hugs and good wishes are the greetings of the day. It is not a time to withdraw into ourselves in the shadows, but to reach out to others in the glow of lights.

Twinkling lights on the houses transform an ordinary neighborhood street into a fairyland. Even a spokeswoman from the California Energy Commission said residents deserve a few strings of lights after the successful summer conservation. Of course, energy concerns should still be considered and huge expansive decorating extravaganzas may not be the order of the day.

Whether residents are celebrating the glory of Christmas, the joy of Hanukkah, the festivities of Kwanzaa or any other winter celebrations, this is a time for remembering the happy moments and reveling in those memories. It's a time of sharing stories with children so that the memories and the stories will continue on for generations.

No, this of all Christmases is not one that should be dark. Instead, we should honor those we lost with light.

Get kids up and about

WHEN IT COMES TO KIDS, there's always something. This time they've failed their statewide fitness tests ... badly. Fifth-, seventh- and ninth-graders tested in the spring and 77 percent failed. As horrible as that number is, it's slightly deceptive. It's a six-part test and not successfully completing any one part equals failure of the test. In fact, 49 percent of students tested met five of the six standards set on the test.

Still, there's a definite problem. This test, these six standards, are not set to find the next Michael Jordan or Jerry Rice. The test assesses six fitness areas: cardiovascular endurance, percentage of body fat, abdominal strength, trunk strength and flexibility, overall flexibility and upper body strength and endurance. It's a measure of health, not athletic ability. With 77 percent of more than a million students unable to pass all six components, we have something to be concerned about. Bringing it closer to home, only 19 percent of Contra County youths who tested passed and 22 percent of those in Alameda passed.

In some ways the schools are failing the children. Many have cut out recess and although some physical education is required, physical education teachers are not. Time and money constraints put physical education on the bottom rung of schools' most important lessons.

But parents, too, must take a major portion of the blame for our out-of-shape youths. We should be encouraging their bike-riding and skating and skateboarding. Instead, we allow too much TV time, too much computer activity and too many video games. Instead of encouraging our children to walk, we drive them everywhere. They certainly won't have great nearly true stories to tell their children about walking a mile to school, uphill both ways.

The way we allow them to eat, in school and at home — with multiple doses of sodas and coffees and sugar-laden fruit juices, few vegetables and fruits and much too much junk — is not helping them physically.

And we teach them very little, by word or deed, regarding the value of exercise. Daily exercise is thought to reduce the rate of depression and increase alertness and energy level. As you do your Christmas shopping remember that PlayStation and Xbox don't count as physical activity.

Parents must encourage their children to be active, even if it means you must get out and play with them. Engineer bike-riding, hiking and other excursions. Take advantage of the fantastic parks in the area. Kick around a ball, walk the dog. Walk around to enjoy the neighborhood Christmas light displays instead of driving. This is another opportunity for quality time with your kids.

PE class at school should not be kids' only exercise of the day. It must be a habit; yet it can be enjoyable. And Brenda VanLengen of the national fitness advocacy group of P.E. 4 Life makes an excellent point: "What good is it if a student knows everything out of a textbook then dies of a heart attack at 27?"

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No peace on Earth

It's Christmastime and there's no peace on Earth! It's time to reflect on the causes of the wars and unrest that have gone on for thousands of years.

We now live in a different, smaller world and we can't afford to wage war against "another" people. We all depend on one another and in order for mankind to continue, we must learn to live together. History has taught us that wars have created more hatred and the need for future generations to wage war to "avenge" the past.

We have to think about the "other" person and what his or her needs are. Are they really so different from our needs? Is it fair that some have so much while others don't even have the basics they need?

We must realize that those who commit crimes are part of our society and that something must have gone wrong to create these people. The least we can do is deal with their problem and not to treat them as outcasts.

We must learn to accept people for who they are and not what their ethnic, racial, political or religious background may be. Can we think about acts of kindness that may help understanding worldwide?

With good will, there is a way. Let us try to make a better world where we can truly mean it when we say peace on Earth!

Ilse Hadda
El Cerrito

Looking back

In order to understand the recent background of the Middle East strife, it is important to realize that it was Yasser Arafat who was instrumental in the election of Ariel Sharon as prime minister of Israel.

The previous prime minister, Ehud Barak, had offered the most far-reaching concessions for peace at Taba. These included the partition of Jerusalem, dismantling settlements, accepting a number of Arab refugees and compensating others, and expecting a Palestinian state.

That was when Arafat, without making a counter proposal, unleashed the intifada with suicide bombing and indoctrinating children to become "martyrs." Thoroughly disenchanted, the Israeli public elected a hard-liner, Sharon.

The irony is that a final peace agreement can only be along the lines of the Barak proposal and the intifada will have been a terrible waste of lives and economic assets, creating more poverty and hate, which will make it harder to come to any peace agreement.

Ray H. Redel
Albany

Seek spiritual growth

Letter writer Morris Cleland's vision, "It would be wonderful if peace and love could overcome everything" vanishes with his lack of faith in it: "but it is not going to happen."

Haven't we all been moved by the

power of love, only to have our attention drift back to our love of power? True love is about self-sacrifice. To live in peace with our brothers and sister will always call for us to wage war against our own lower nature. It is my understanding that this war is the true meaning of "jihad" — a holy war, a spiritual occupation.

Thomas Jefferson's recommendation of eternal vigilance for bringing about peace is essential if there is to be victory for the higher nature over the lower. I strongly suggest exercising this vigilance when listening to simplistic statements, such as, "Killing some 3,000 innocent people and inflicting pain and sorrow on countless other for no logical reason is evil."

Consider the following: M. Scott Peck, in his book, "People of the Lie," reiterated his definition of evil as the exercise of political power, the imposition of one's will upon others by overt or covert coercion in order to avoid spiritual growth. In other words, the evil attack others instead of facing their own failures.

Ron Greenstein
El Cerrito

Americans beware

Have we had enough revenge? At least 3,700 Afghan civilians killed versus some 3,000 in our September tragedy. Millions are in danger of starvation there.

George W. Bush, et al., succeeded in terrifying us into hysterics and pseudopatriotism while destroying a country already devastated by decades of war and a three-year drought.

But one of their goals, a long-desired oil line by some U.S. companies through Afghanistan, will be realized as we rebuild that country with billions of tax dollars from our country. Revenge may be sweet but it is costly.

"Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." Matthew 7:15.

Marion K. Matlin
El Cerrito

Examine our stance

I don't know that we could have prevented the Sept. 11 tragedy, any more than we could have prevented the Holocaust. In both cases, inaction allowed the terrorism to continue.

I believe there are many things we must do. Besides condemning all acts of terrorism, we must take concrete steps to stop it from happening — whether in the United States, Israel or other countries.

We must not be afraid to condemn and attack those who call for these acts of barbarism, and stop them in the same way we would stop someone who is "inciting to riot." This includes leaders of state, generals in an army or preachers in a mosque.

While we need to preserve the right of people to practice any religion, we must not allow those who would subvert that religion to use it as a shield. We must move against those states that train and harbor

terrorists.

Also, we must not be afraid to stand why this occurred. I believe the most part, it has to do with why Palestinians call "nabqa," which from Arabic means "catastrophe" referring to the establishment of the state of Israel in Palestine.

It is primarily U.S. support of Israel that has brought the hatred of the anti-most of Islam (since it is called a state by Muslim leaders) to our shores.

We must evaluate our support of Israel. If we find it is not what we should discontinue it. However, we believe it is just, then we should and continue with it.

Wasting time

I am 55 years old and have done things in my life and seen many things. While in the Navy, I heard a person say, "The Boy Scouts have it all over us," have adult leaders."

I look and listen to what is going on between Palestinian and Israeli and I think back to that statement.

People who would rather argue something have lost valuable time that could have been used to work or was being argued about. I remember my mother saying, "The time you have is time trying to get out of what you are going to do, you could have done it."

This hate for hate's sake is a waste of time and billions of dollars.

Gene M.

Oppose 'retribution'

We oppose the bombing of Afghanistan as justifiable "retribution."

Sept. 11 represents a crime against humanity. We do not oppose the cancer of Osama bin Laden and his supporters; we must assemble and present world evidence of guilt and seek through international law, using the possible amount of force to bring those who collaborated with the people to justice. We believe killing innocent people is the problem, not the solution.

"We oppose the bombing of Afghanistan as justifiable 'retribution.' Sept. 11 represents a crime against humanity. We do not oppose the cancer of Osama bin Laden and his supporters; we must assemble and present world evidence of guilt and seek through international law, using the possible amount of force to bring those who collaborated with the people to justice. We believe killing innocent people is the problem, not the solution."

As a distinguished Buddhist leader, Daisaku Ikeda, recently said, "Peace that is based on the expression of other nations' voices and concerns is a dead peace, the peace of grave. Surely that is not the peace humanity is seeking."

We concur with the National League of Women's Clubs that "The universal desire is safe and secure."

The only path to safety and security is through international law, vengeence and retaliation.

Betty F.

Brown is board chairwoman of bany-based East Bay Peace Action.

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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BART's barking up wrong tree with drug-nosing dogs

Once again, there seems to be no final answer to the question: "How can you get?"

Of course, to BART's relief, our police dogs on board to sniff out riders who

are carrying marijuana.

Now I don't know about

but when I'm riding BART,

the last thing I worry about is

whether the guy next to me is

an agent. As long as he

isn't light up on the train,

he can't get me.

That I do worry about is

whether he's carrying explosive

or nerve gas. Or worse.

All it takes is a quick look

and to realize how vulnera-

ble our public transport systems

are to terrorists — as that

was a few days ago when it released Sarin

gas in the Tokyo subway.

But I'd imagine what havoc

it could wreak if they pulled

something at the 12th Street,

Arthur or Embarcadero sta-

tions during rush hour?

But instead of taking steps

and off this very real men-

BART is wasting its time



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

trying to sniff out potheads. Talk about misplaced priorities! ■ ■ ■

Speaking of pot, Jeremy Giambi of the A's got busted with a small amount last week — which gives me a perfect segue to the next order of business; namely, trashing his older brother, Jason.

Jason was on the David Letterman show last Friday, reading the night's Top 10 list: "Why I decided to become a Yankee." And answer No. 3 was, "Have you ever seen Oakland?"

Ha ha — not! — Who does this jerk think he is? No sooner does he skip town for the big bucks in the Big Apple (proving once again the old baseball adage: "Whenever a player says,

'It's not about the money,' it's about the money"), then he turns around and trashes a fine city that doesn't deserve it. The guy might be a great player; but if that's the way he feels about us, good riddance.

It's only good manners to thank someone for their Christmas present. So on behalf of all of us, let me thank Kate, Mathew, Brooke, Benjamin, Ellie, Lucas, Izumi, Martin, Carl, Sophie, Chaitlyn, Joseph, Drisa, Jimmy, Darioen, Vivian, Jacy and Raymond — all members of Ms. Shepherd's kindergarten class at Marin School in Albany — for making those exquisite holiday posters now gracing storefront windows on Alman and San Pablo avenues.

Thanks also to the second-graders in Ms. Ryerson's class, the third-graders in Ms. Karet's class, and the fifth-graders in Ms. Zulpo's and Ms. Staton's classes, who also made beautiful Holiday posters.

The fifth graders' creations are quite witty. (I especially liked Molly's depiction of a

snowman nonchalantly leaning against a fence.) The third-graders' creations remind me of Chagall.

But I'm blown away by the creativity of the kindergartners. I couldn't figure out how they achieved those delicate snowfall effects in the background until their teacher, Maggie Shepherd, told me their secret: bubbles!

They mixed equal parts water, detergent and "about a ton of white paint" in Tupperware containers. Then they blew into the concoction with a straw until they had a mass of white bubbles, which they applied to the paper.

"At first, I kept warning them, 'Now remember, blow into the straws; don't suck,'" says Shepherd. "But then one boy said, 'Don't worry, Ms. Shepherd. I already know how to blow bubbles. I do it all the time in my bubble bath.'"

Go see the stunning results for yourself. But even more impressive than the kids' virtuosity is their generosity. The real reason they made these posters

was to give the rest of us some badly needed Christmas cheer.

Think about it. This is a holiday season like no other. The shock and sadness of Sept. 11 still hang over us like a baleful cloud. More than ever before, we should be comforting our children. How touching it is to see them reaching out to comfort us, instead.

Thanks, kids. We needed that. Merry Christmas, and may next year be a better one for all of us. ■ ■ ■

Lots of you have been calling to ask if the Christmas caroling for Mr. Charles, the Berkeley Waving Man, went off as scheduled on Sunday. Answer: Yes, and we all had a great time. Thanks to everyone who showed up.

And thanks, too, to those who left messages on my voice mail saying they couldn't make it but wished Mr. Charles well anyway. I passed each and every one of your greetings on to him, and he was absolutely delighted.

Same time next year, OK?

Finally, let me wish you a

merry Christmas — not "happy holidays." I hope I'm not offending anyone by using the dreaded C-word, but Christmas is my favorite holiday. And I'm Jewish!

Remember the Levy's Rye Bread advertising slogan, "You don't have to be Jewish to love Levy's"? Well, you don't have to be Christian to love Christmas.

I'm not talking about Frosty and Santa. I mean the real thing: the Nativity story. It has a sweetness that appeals to everyone, whether you believe Jesus was the Messiah or not. (If you do, so much the better.) And even when I was a little kid, I could appreciate the delicious irony: If those innkeepers only knew who they were turning away!

So have a merry Christmas. And let's remember the wise words of Ben Franklin: "How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, his precepts! O 'Tis easier to keep holidays than commandments."

E-mail Martin Snapp at catman@california.com or call him at 510-273-9039.

Gifts for the food and travel enthusiast on your list



MIKE CLEARY
The Food and Travel Enthusiast

YEARS RUNNING by New York diners in the well-regarded Zagat Survey, Union Square Cafe is known for its simple but imaginative dishes. Recipes aside, I enjoyed the authors' whimsical and entertaining approach to cookbook photography.

If you're a macaroni and cheese fan like our daughter Amanda, you'll enjoy "Mac-

roni & Cheese: 52 Recipes from Simple to Sublime" by Joan Schwartz (Villard, \$15.95). According to Joan, some of America's best known chefs are putting their own creative spin on this All-American dish and adding it to their menus. She includes their recipes as well as her own.

Another winner is "The New Alaska Cookbook: Recipes from the Last Frontier's Best Chefs" by Kim Severson (Sasquatch Books, \$19.95). She spent eight years working as a journalist writing about that state's food and restaurants before moving to San Francisco where she is a newspaper food editor.

In "Looking for Alaska" Jenkins leaves his Tennessee

Glenn Denkler, has assembled 120 easy-to-follow recipes of Alaska's finest chefs. Take this one to bed with you one night. Her biographies of the chefs are utterly fascinating.

Kim's book is my clever segue into the first of two armchair travel recommendations. Peter Jenkins is the author of "Looking for Alaska" (St. Martin's Press, \$25.95). Jenkins first made a name for himself when, as a disillusioned 24-year-old, he walked across America and wrote a best-selling memoir about the adventure.

In "Looking for Alaska" Jenkins leaves his Tennessee

See CLEARY, Page A9

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Teach your children well, and enjoy them again as adults

At the end of our conversation, as I always do in these interviews, I asked Roberta Maisel for a summing up statement. Since our conversation had had to do with her recently published book "All Grown Up," subheaded "Living Happily Ever After With Your Adult Children," Maisel's statement was very clear: "Find an activity you can do with your adult children. It's called sharing, and it should be something that you both like, and neither has a superiority. Life is too short to spend it in anger. And it is important to fill your life with laughter and joy. What better person to do this with than your older children."

I could almost end this story with that statement, because it truly ties up all the loose ends our daily living leaves about. But there is more to Roberta Maisel than that, and more to her book that must be discussed.

The day I was first introduced to Roberta and her book, one member of our little group, a man, said, "Her chapter on loneliness could have been written for me. I have been far



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

happier since I read it and started to follow her advice." That pricked my interest, and it should be the reason for the interesting interview a few days later.

First, who is Roberta Maisel, and what led her to the writing of this book? Born in New York City, Roberta's interest and avocation was always music, principally the piano.

"All my life I played somebody's music. I played with a violinist and again with a flutist. Bach and Mozart and more. I could play by ear and could improvise, so that I could accompany people or play alone. I played at nursing homes and sing alongs. Mostly for the love of it, and I thank the lord for giving me an ear which allows me to enjoy the music I love, both listening and playing, through no work of

my own."

Roberta received a bachelor's degree from Brandeis, and a master's degree in sociology from UC Berkeley. She had a brief stint teaching at the college level. At various times in her life she has been a teacher, antique shop owner, piano accompanist and political activist working with and for Central American refugees, homeless people and Middle East Peace.

She and her late husband owned and ran an antique shop in Piedmont for many years. Writing only came later, when she became widowed in 1993, at the age of 58, and needed a new direction in her life.

"I had always loved writing, but never written anything much," she says. "Just an occasional newsletter. Then, when my husband died I, had a kind of call, a sense of destiny. I wanted to write."

She wrote short stories, and tried to get them published. Then she read a book on small presses that inspired her to send things around. She received honorable mention in a short story contest and won first prize in the same contest

the following year. Then she went to visit a friend, who told her she was having a problem with one of her grown children. "I wish there was a book I could read that would help with adult children."

Then, Maisel says, "I heard myself say, 'Let's write one.' They worked together in the beginning, and Roberta continued after her friend's life went in a different direction."

In her acknowledgments in the book, Robert thanks her friend, Nicola Milner, for the inspiration and for helping her with the earlier stages of "All Grown Up." She also thanks her brother-in-law, Eric Maisel, an author, who taught her how to write a book proposal and encouraged her to send around the proposal and one chapter (she chose "Communication With Your Children").

She received 20 rejections, and was deciding to look for a full time job, when she came across a magazine called "The Writer" that gave her the information she needed to send it out once more, to a small publisher in British Columbia.

A couple of months later she

received an e-mail saying the publisher was interested. She says they were very helpful and did all of the things they said they would do. I found their statement at the back of the book and was fascinated by their specialties and their environmental awareness, including a list of the resources the New Society Publishers had saved in that commitment.

Lovely. She discussed the problems people face, in this day of increased longevity, in relationships, not only with adult children, but even with adult grandchildren.

Roberta has a 94-year-old mother, who has a 43-year-old grandson, and a mother-in-law who is 92, so she is well aware of the parent/adult/child relationships. She points out small things, such as parents who continue to remind their adult children to "remember to send a card to Auntie," or "Don't forget to thank Uncle Bill." Things you would say to teen-agers.

"I try to convince them that they don't have to do that any more. They should take a step back and realize the things that were the center of their lives are not the center any more, that they should make the cen-

Greer

FROM PAGE A3

classics "Mood Indigo," "Take the A Train," and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore."

One of the few other times I've seen a combo built around a trombonist was years ago at a cool Santa Barbara music lounge. Playing indoors, this fellow was able to use mutes to create the illusion there were several instruments present. And he improvised so well I assumed he was a jazz great whom I did not recognize. Wrong. He was a Hollywood studio musician on a working vacation. One never knows where such a wonder will turn up.

Talking to Barfield after the Plaza performance, I learned that the slip horn was his primary instrument, but that band directors have to learn all the instruments — yes, all! — in order to instruct their students. I found this amazing as I have been trying to master the conga for over half a century, and my second instrument is the kazoo.

This multi-talented man told me that El Cerrito High (about 1,390 students) has a robust music program with over 200 youngsters either playing instruments or in the choir.

Barfield has a 56-member concert band that plays classical music, and a symphony group with 64 advanced players. They put on four concerts a year.

He also teaches a beginning level jazz band with 23 young-

sters and an advanced ensemble with 20 members. When not doing anything else, Barfield conducts a 15-piece marching band that plays at football games as well as in the Solano Stroll and at a Kensington parade. Barfield says Jocelyn Gooch instructs 45 choir students.

In his first year at ECHS, Barfield says he, "inherited a great program that previous band directors built up and that I plan to take further."

The music man reports that 85 percent of his students began playing in elementary school and the rest in middle schools, primarily Portola.

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where band director Paul Yonemura has an excellent program. Only one or two of Barfield's students started playing at the high school level.

All of this is good news in times when many art and music programs are being cut back.

Every child who wants to should have the opportunity to learn music: For many it be-

comes a joyful, lifetime interest; for others the way to make or augment a living; and for some a door to opportunities not otherwise available.

Meeting Brian Barfield and watching him play Ellington in four flats has encouraged me to try for two, but I'm not making any resolutions I might have to break before the new year even begins.

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**How do I RECYCLE
my Christmas tree, greeting cards,
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877-STOPWASTE
(877-786-7927)**

to the rescue of
Rescue Mission
Area Rescue Mission
supplies to the Richmond
organization's Christmas
distribution to the poor.
It was a great response
the day Area community to
supply turkeys at
"Executive Director
Anderson said. "But we
received requests for 700
food bags from fami-
lies."

Anderson said the organization
has enough hams for
Christmas meals for
guests, but the food
distribution to the com-
munity's poor families will be
at a standstill unless donations
are made.

Donations to the Bay
Rescue Mission can be
made at 700 Macdonald Ave. in
Berkeley before Thursday. For
information, call 510-215-

for golf camps set
and girls ages 7-17 are
to participate in a series

of

PAGE A2

Tilden Regional Park be-
gins at the end of this year.

"Celebration" will be from 1
to Saturday. Visitors may list
sights, sip cider, munch pop-
corn, sing songs of celebration, make
the season and learn the sci-
ence of the winter solstice.

30 feet
nature walk on local
3:30 p.m. Dec. 23
adaptations of night vi-
sion approaches

of Nike Junior Holiday Golf
Camps at the Tilden Park golf
course and two other Golf Learning
Centers. The half-day and
two-day camps will be held at
American Golf's Tilden Park Golf
Course in Berkeley on Dec. 27-
28, 29-30 and Jan. 2-3; The Re-
serve at Spinos Park Golf Course
in Stockton on Dec. 17-21 (half-
day camp), 27-28 and Jan. 2-3;
and at Monarch Bay Golf Club
(formerly San Leandro Golf
Club) Dec. 22-23, 27-28, 29-30
and Jan. 5-6.

The camps are open to juniors
of all skill levels at a cost of \$149
per student, and include two days
of instruction in golf fundamentals
such as full swing, putting and
chipping — as well as golf
rules and etiquette, scoring, how
to reserve a tee time, and other
important "transition to play" ele-
ments. Also included for each
student are lunch each day; a
Nike Golf cap; a Nike Junior Golf
Camp workbook; and on-course
instruction. Half-day camps are
Monday through Friday with
three hours of instruction per day
and are offered as low as \$195.

A group instruction program
offers new golfer, intermediate
and advanced levels, so that stu-
dents learn alongside others of

A free Boxing Day bird walk and cele-
bration is scheduled from 9 a.m. to
noon Dec. 26. Walkers will look for the
wren, the king of all birds in Irish and
English folklore. Traditional music and
refreshments will follow the walk. Be-
ginners are welcome and binoculars
are available to borrow. Those 10 years and older may help
clear non-native plants from the park's
nature area from 10 a.m. to noon Dec.
30. Bring work gloves and water. Call
to register. A New Year's Eve tea is scheduled from
1 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 31. Visitors age 8
and older may sample teas from
around the world, as well as various
delicacies. Participants may bring their
teacups and saucers for show-and-tell. There is a \$5 fee (\$7 for nonresi-
dents) and registration is required.
The 19th annual New Year's Eve hike is
from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 31. Hikers, who will hear about customs and
traditions from around the world, are
advised to dress warmly. It is all right
to bring flashlights. There is no fee.
All events take place at Tilden's nature
area or at the north end of Central
Park Drive off Wildcat Canyon Road
and there are signs throughout the
park to direct visitors. Call 510-525-2233 for information

Then there's "Driving Mr.
Albert: A Trip Across America
with Einstein's Brain" by
Michael Paterniti (Delta Trade
Paperback, \$10.95). Newsweek
described it as a work of "un-
common intelligence." My sen-
timents exactly. I would love to
hear what you think about it.

Mary Ann wanted me to add
that a magazine subscription
always makes a good last-
minute gift.

For the food and travel en-
thusiast on your list, there's a
new publication called "Wine

their own ability and progress at
their own pace. Tee It Up 1 for
the new golfer is designed to put
the fun back into learning. The
program offers a comprehensive
introduction to golf package for
as low as \$149 that includes six
hours of instruction encompassing
chipping, putting and full-
swing fundamentals, five rounds
of golf, membership in the Ameri-
can Golf Players Association, a
USGA introduction to golf video-
tape, and a bag tag. The program
also includes golf facility and
course tours, equipment
overview, state-of-the-art video
analysis, practice drills, instruc-
tion on rules and etiquette, infor-
mation on the importance of
pace of play, and "transition to
play" on-course instruction. Tee
It Up 2 for intermediate golfer
and Tee It Up 3 for advanced
players are also available.

For more information call toll-
free at 877-312-4653. More in-
formation on Nike Golf can be
found on-line at www.nikegolf-club.com.

Christmas Tea at the Cohen Bray Home

The Victorian Preservation

Center of Oakland invites you to
join them for a Christmas Tea on
Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Cohen
Bray Home, 1440 29th Ave. in
Oakland.

The landmark house offers
Christmas spirit in Victorian
splendor. Learn about the home
and the Fruitvale neighborhood
as it was in the past. This event
will begin with a tour of the upper
portion of the house, tea in the
formal dining room served in
heirloom tea cups by maids in
Victorian dress, then on to the
parlor, study and finally into the
redwood room where over 20 un-
decorated trees fill your senses
as you hear of 116-year-old fam-
ily Christmas traditions and view
the 20-foot decorated tree.

The Cohen Bray home has
been lived in by members of the
same family since 1884 and features
the original furniture, decor
and family memories. This home is
an Oakland Historic Land-

mark, and on the National Register
of Historic Places. The house is
now owned by the Victorian
Preservation Center of
Oakland although family mem-
bers still call it home.

Proceeds from these events
help support the society's goal of
developing a study center to help
preserve the material culture and
history of the Bay Area in the 116
years since the house was built.

The tea will seatings at 2, 3
and 4 p.m. Reservations are re-
quired. The cost is \$20 general
admission and \$15 for members
of the Victorian Preservation
Center of Oakland.

Call 510-843-2906 for infor-
mation and reservations

Jazzschool announces winter 2002 quarter

Registration for the Jaz-
zschool's winter 2002 quarter at

St. in Berkeley, will take place
Jan. 2-11, with placement audi-
tions and consultations sched-
uled for the same time. The 10-
week quarter, Jan. 14-March 29,
includes over 125 classes and
workshops.

To obtain a catalog or appli-
cation, contact the Jazzschool at
510-845-5373, or by e-mail,
swing@jazzschool.com.

Four courses may be taken for
credit (as well as on a "not for
credit" basis) through the UC
Berkeley Extension: African Mu-
sic, Past to Present; Jazz Piano
Comprehensive; Jazz Theory and
Improvisation; and Vocal Tech-
nique — Full Body Singing.

A limited number of scholar-
ships are offered, based on merit
and financial need, through con-
tributions to the East Bay Com-
munity Foundation earmarked
for the Jazzschool Educational
Scholarship Program.

Recall

FROM PAGE A1

Kendall served Skinner and
Cain notice of the recall move.

Kendall was upset, he said,
about what he called the board's
poor bargaining practices with
the teachers union. He also con-
tended that the board ignored its
civic duties when the members
walked out of a December meet-
ing last year citing crowd noise
as a distraction.

The group targeted Skinner
and Cain, they said, because it
was believed they had a negative
influence on the rest of the board
during budget talks.

Kendall did not return the
Journal's phone calls.

Just before the board's spe-
cial meeting Tuesday — at which
it agreed to form a budgetary
management team to handle next
year's projected shortfall of more
than \$700,000 — Skinner ex-

pressed relief that the recall is
over.

"I'm pleased that the district
doesn't have to spend the money
— it's money the district doesn't
have," she said.

A special election would have
cost the district between \$1.50 to
\$3.50 a voter, the registrar said.

Plaza

FROM PAGE A1

Work has already started on
the building on the center's south
side and Engberg said the stores
there will remain in place during
renovation.

The final piece of the puzzle
is the building vacated by Al-
bertson's when it opened its
mega-supermarket. Site plans
showed a Bally's Fitness Center
there and Engberg said Bally's is
still interested, but that Regency
is talking to other retailers as
well.

berkeley rep

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by William Shakespeare
directed by Brian Kulick
November 16-January 4

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BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Best books for holiday gift-giving for young people

By Barbara Sloane
CORRESPONDENT

Here comes my annual plea: Give children books for holiday gifts. There are always plenty to choose from, some specific to the season, and others just fun, exciting or educational for anytime. Our Bay Area authors and illustrators never fail to provide us with many excellent choices.

"Who Is Coming to Our House?" by Joseph Slate, pictures by Ashley Wolff (Puffin Books, \$6.99, 32 pages). This charming paperback sets the scene for the first Christmas as the stable animals prepare for some special visitors. Perfect read-aloud book for the 2-6 age group, with appealing animals drawn by a San Franciscan Wolff.



"Hark! The Aardvark Angels Sing" by Teri Sloat (Putnam, \$15.99, 32 pages). Such a silly book! But surely children from 4 to 8 will find great fun. If you ever wondered how the mail carriers manage to deliver the billions of Christmas cards — well, the secret is out.

Author/illustrator Sloat shows readers the hordes of aardvark angels (one complete with trumpet) who rush the mail all over the globe. The rhyming text actually fits the melody of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and music is provided, so the whole family can sing along.

"Jesus, This Is Your Life: Stories & Pictures by Kids" edited by Jeff Kunkel (Augsburg Books, \$12.99, 48 pages). Kunkel is an Oakland author, artist and ordained United Methodist minister. Although his own writings have been published, he turned to boys and girls he works with throughout the East Bay to write a new biography of Jesus. In this imaginative book, we can read and see the life of Jesus through the words and eyes of children

from ages 5 to 12.

The stories are told with a child's contemporary spin, and the pictures vibrate with bold colors and graphic details. Each storyteller and artist is identified. What better book to introduce children to Jesus' life than one told by their peers. Obviously the children (and their editor) did a good job, because their book was chosen as the Best Children's Book of 2001 by the American Theologian Booksellers Association.

"EZ Reading: From A to Z" by Michelle Ann Goosby, illustrations by Bruce K. Hopkins (Dorrance, \$13.0, 93 pages). For an educational tool designed to help a child's reading proficiency, Alameda resident Goosby has created an easy to use manual based on phonetics.

Beginning with charts describing 44 phonetic sounds, the author moves onto the major portion of her book, which is comprised of one-page short stories, each based on a specific sound. The lively black and white drawings accompanying each story invite children to add colors to them, even as they practice the sounds. This is a different, clever take on helping children enjoy reading.

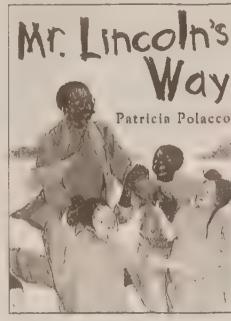
"Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten" by Joseph Slate, illustrated by Ashley Wolff (Puffin Paperback, \$6.99, 40 pages) and "Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip" (\$16.99, 40 pages).

Slate and Wolff make an excellent team, producing books to delight preschoolers. The border collie teacher, Miss Bindergarten, is well-known to many young readers. Also loved are the 26 animal children in her class, whose names from A (Adam Alligator) to Z (Zach Zebra) cover the alphabet. No child who has been exposed to Miss Bindergarten's kindergarten can ever dread the first day of school.

"Vinnie in France" by Elizabeth Bott, illustrated by Guido Frosini and Alessandra Cecchetti (Page Turner Books, \$15.99, 50 pages).

Here's that crazy cat Vinnie again, embarking on his travels. Last seen in Egypt, Vinnie now explores France with his adventures told in verse by author Bott and illustrated brightly and wackily by the teenage cousins, Frosini and Cecchetti, grandchildren of Montclair residents, Richard and Doris Nivens. Along Vinnie's outrageous trail through

France, young readers will actually learn quite a bit about French history and customs.



"Mr. Lincoln's Way" by Patricia Polacco (Philomel, \$16.99, 40 pages).

Former Oaklander Polacco has a distinctive artistic style easily recognized by her fans. Readers from ages 6 to 9 also recognize the warmth and kindness in her stories. Any child would want to have Mr. Lincoln as principal of his/her school. But "mean Gene" doesn't like Mr. Lincoln or anyone in his school. How the kindly principal touches and turns around Eugene's life truly points out the lesson about understanding others and acknowledging their differences.

"Samurai" by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Adam McCauley (Viking, \$14.99, 80 pages). Some elementary school readers may already know the Time Warp Trio, Joe, Sam and Fred. These three fifth-graders have in their possession "The Book," which magically transports them back in time.

Having previously found themselves in ancient Greece and then in the days of Roman gladiators, they now discover themselves surrounded by Japanese samurai in the time of Tokugawa.

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Author Scieszka has seized upon a clever formula to entice readers into learning about ancient cultures, especially since these stories include lots of action and humor. In this particular adventure, Joe, Sam and Fred even learn how to write haiku for their teacher, Ms. Basho (an "in joke").

"Once Upon A Fairytale: Four Favorite Stories Retold by the Stars" with 21 celebrity authors and 21 award-winning illustrators (Viking, \$29.99, 80 pages). This gift book produced under Steven Spielberg's direction is intended to benefit the Starbright Foundation. Starbright funds a variety of programs to help seriously ill children live richer, more fulfilling lives.

"Once Upon A Fairytale" is really for all ages. The cast of celebrities taking part in the stories ranges from Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf to Glenn Close, and from Martha Stewart to Robin Williams. Included with the book is a full-length CD with the cast performing "The Frog Prince," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Rumpelstiltskin," and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."

With Mike Myers as Rumpelstiltskin or Calista Flockhart as Goldilocks you can imagine that there is quite a modern spin on these stories. The magnificent, full page, color illustrations are done by a veritable Who's Who of children's book illustrators. Chris Van Allsburg, Barry Moser, Mary Engelbreit and J. Otto Seibold are just four of the well-known artists. "Once Upon a Fairytale" presents the possibility of a wonderful evening's entertainment, reading and listening to new takes on some familiar tales.

Bus

FROM PAGE A1
with the current \$27.

AC Transit currently receives about \$5 million from student passes. In order to break even during the pilot program, the district will have to sell an additional 8,900 passes at the discounted \$15 price.

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Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmonter

Friday, December 21, 2001

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B5]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B6]



A proposal for Albany's Key Route Boulevard

Key Route Boulevard in Albany and El Cerrito has an intriguing history that extends back over 100 years. Prior to the year 1900, passenger rail and ferry boat service was the exclusive purview of the Southern Pacific Railway.

Francis Marion "Borax" Smith challenged this monopoly in 1903. Smith proposed and developed a competing urban rail system with ferry boats to connect the system to San Francisco.

An observer noted that Smith's plan that connected the rail and ferry service looked like a gigantic key when observed from above. This observation gave the system its name: the Key Route.

At its peak the Key Route system served commuters from San Jose to San Leandro, Oakland and Berkeley.

The system in Berkeley ran down the center of Shattuck Avenue

into North Berkeley through the Thousand Oaks tunnel terminating at Solano Avenue and the Alameda.

Another line ran down Hoffman Boulevard into Richmond. Plans were developed to extend the line down Solano into the present-day Key Route Boulevard into El Cerrito. A broad space on the boulevard from Solano to Fairmont avenues was reserved for this extension.

When the Bay Bridge was completed, Key Route trains ran across the span, marking the system's high point. Pro-bus activists grew in number after World War II and by 1946 the system was sold to these pro-bus activists; Key Route services ended in 1958.

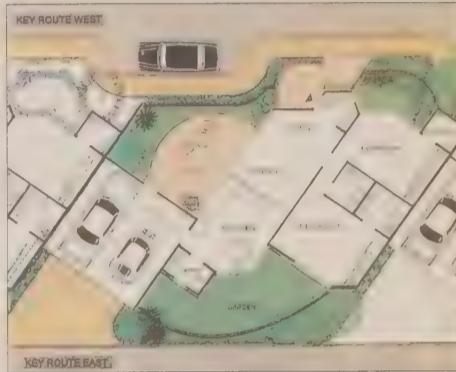
The extension on Key Route Boulevard never materialized. This area, particularly in Albany, is the focus of my discussion here. When the plan was abandoned, a wide island of space remained. This width of this space varies.

In Albany the "island" is about 35 feet wide centered on a 96-foot curb-to-curb open area. One-way vehicular traffic travels on each side of the island.

See PROPOSAL, Page B2



JOHN ROLF HATTAM
Real Estate Forum



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Some lessons from Havana

Part two of three parts

When I first visited Havana in June of this year, there was a joke which some Cubans were telling that illustrates the disparity that exists between the majority of Cuban citizens and those that have access to the new so-called "dollar economy."

An elderly couple was sitting on a bench in one of Havana's parks, watching a group of school children playing. One of the boys seemed to be particularly bright, so the old man decided to talk to him.

"Little boy, you seem like a very intelligent young man," the elderly gentleman remarked. "Do you mind if I ask you a question?"

"Not at all, mister. Go right ahead."

"Do you know what you want to be when you grow up?"

"That's easy. I want to be the one thing that guarantees a good life in Cuba today."

"Oh—and what is that?"

"A tourist."

In 1993, Fidel Castro legalized the use of the US dollar for Cuban citizens to use in business transactions in Cuba. That year he also permitted citizens to go into business for themselves in over 100 categories, which included mechanics and repair, fishing, farming, taxi drivers, hairdressers, restaurateurs, and small residential hotel operators. (Just in case anyone thought undiluted socialism still existed on the island of Cuba—think again.)

This radical change was necessitated by the sudden withdrawal of subsidies to Cuba from the old Soviet Union. By the late 1980s, the Soviets were giving a total of \$6 billion a year in economic aid, and \$1 billion per year in military aid—a huge amount in a nation of less than 12 million people. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, this aid, plus \$6 billion a year more in subsidized trade with the Russians, was suddenly halted, creating economic havoc and hardship.

Today, the existence of a dual economy can be seen in every aspect of Cuban society. There are really two economies here—one for those with access to dollars, and one for those who only have Cuban pesos. It is estimated that now about 50 per cent of the inhabitants of Havana have access to US dollars, and perhaps 30 percent of the rest of Cuban citizens do.

One area that has been greatly effected by the dollar economy all of the small legal residential hotels

that cater to tourists. These are usually located in large, older private homes that were once owned by wealthy or middle class families, before Castro's regime took them over after the 1959 revolution. Such houses typically have several rooms for rent to tourists, and often provide breakfast for their guests. These establishments are known as "casa particulares."

The Cuban government provides a license to the citizens who operate these casa particulares for a hefty sum, and then collects a large percentage of the profits in income taxes. Some of these residential hotels are in buildings that were allowed to fall into disrepair, or may have been abandoned for many years, and therefore are in dire need of restoration before they can cater to foreign tourists.

In many such cases, the Cuban government has wooed foreign investors from Canada, Mexico, and Europe to enter into joint ventures, whereby the foreign investors put up most of the money for the restoration and remodeling of these residences, in exchange for a percentage of the profits. In some of these older buildings, the foreign investors operate a restaurant or "dollar shop" for consumer goods on part or all of the premises.

An especially charming casa particular in Havana was the one I stayed at, which is called simply Jacqueline's Place, after the woman who runs it. It is located on Avenida E, just east of La Rampa, in the Vedado District. The Vedado is a pleasant residential area with tree-lined streets and large homes built in the late 1800's and early 1900's that once belonged to middle class families.

Jacqueline's Place is in a lovely Edwardian Era house that was built between about 1914 and 1918. It still has the very high ceilings, cast iron grillwork over windows, wide verandah, and spacious rooms of the original house. The building was restored several years ago, and has a front parlor, dining room, kitchen, and rear sitting room, as well as several bedrooms with private baths for rent.

Throughout Jacqueline's Place, the rooms still retain much of their original, Edwardian Era furniture, including Baroque Revival style beds, Art Nouveau lamps, and a Baronial scale set of carved oak chairs and table in the dining room. Jacqueline lives with her family in a separate apartment in the rear of the building.

The rooms in Jacqueline's Place vary in size, and range in price from

\$30 to \$45 per night. She serves a full breakfast each morning for \$3 extra per person, including freshly squeezed juice and Café Cubano, or Cuban coffee.

Another aspect of Cuban society that has been effected by the dollar economy is the restoration of older individual family residences. Some of these historic homes are allowed to remain in private ownership within a family that has owned and occupied such a house since before the socialist revolution. In other cases, the Cuban government does allow a few of these older residences to be occupied by single families from important professions if they agree to restore them.

I had the pleasure of visiting such a private family residence in the Havana Central district. Havana Central is a residential area of closely-packed, two-to-five story houses and apartment buildings that were built between the early 1800's and the early 1900's. It lies just to the west of Havana Vieja.

On my first visit to Havana, I was shown around one of these gracious old private residences that was being restored by a family of professional people. Two cousins, Yohana and Yalith, gave me a tour

of this lovely, turn-of-the-century, two story home. The house was occupied by Yohana, her mother, (a

See WILSON, Page B14



MARK WILSON

MANY LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY PRIVATE RESIDENCES such as this in Havana's old Vedado District have been abandoned for years, some since Castro came to power in 1959. Many of these are now being restored by foreign investors.

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Mortgage broker disclosure

Mortgage brokers in the rest of the USA will soon have to bring up their standards to what California brokers already practice. Rulings in October by the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) on the issue of the legality of lender paid yield spread premiums (YSPs) to mortgage brokers is considered a bittersweet victory for the mortgage broker industry.

Bittersweet in that the policy puts all the liability on the mortgage broker, but not the lender, but at least they will still allow the YSP to be paid.

A yield spread premium is a rebate that the lender pays to a broker in the form of a loan origination fee so that the broker can make a no point or no cost loan to a borrower the same way that a direct lender or savings and loan institution can.

The problem has been that until now, the rebate (a percentage of the loan amount) was not clearly defined or disclosed to borrowers in many areas of the country.

HUD Secretary Mel Martinez clarified their policy and made it quite clear that the YSP are a valuable financing tool but they can be abused by brokers and lenders.

"HUD has always contended that yield spread premiums are not illegal as long as the broker actually performs services for the buyers and the costs are reasonable," he said.

Reputable mortgage brokers and lenders will at the very start provide their borrowers with a variety of disclosure statements, the primary being the Good Faith Estimate of Closing Costs (also known as "What the Hell are all these fees form?"), which spells out what the fees are and where they go. Even when we are doing a "No Cost Loan" we must spell out what the costs are that are

being paid with the YSP. We can clearly spell out what the broker is earning.

For example, if a broker is charging closing costs, appraisal fees, title fees, attorney fees, etc., then these fees are accounted for in the mortgage broker's gross.

Most brokers will not charge the loan package fees, and will not begin the underwriting process until the good faith estimate fees are paid.

Good faith estimate fees can be reasonable.

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Look around the real estate community (and the world) this holiday season

and information for and the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY KWANZAA
FELIZ NAVIDAD
HAPPY HANUKKAH

However you say it, however you choose to celebrate, the holidays are a time to create traditions and memories. I submit for your enjoyment, reflections on holiday memories and traditions of this columnist and traditions of our local associations of realtors.

Some holiday trivia

As a bonus I include some holiday trivia of times gone by. One of my favorite Christmas stories occurred in the 1950s. In fact the thing I wanted was a "Betsy-tacy" doll. Baby Boomers will remember her. She drank water from her baby bottle and then she needed a change. I told everyone who had seen parents, grandparents and aunts and uncles that I had that doll. Wasn't I surprised to receive an "implicate"? "Betsy-tacy" triplets, wow. I changed a many, tiny diapers that holiday season.

Berkeley Association of Realtors 2002 President, Miriam Ng

"In Berkeley we used to enjoy the community tree lighting ceremony and hayrides. The hayrides stopped in front of the Post Office, so the children could drop off their letters to Santa. As a member of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, I volunteered to be a Santa's Helper and answer letters to Santa. It was a community activity that I remember fondly."

Nabisco made animal crackers with strings attached, so they could be hung on the Christmas tree as ornaments.

George Johnson, 2002 President of the Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter

"I remember one Christmas, when I was a little boy, all I wanted and wished for was a snow sled. I was so anxious, I decided to do some snooping around. There it was, in the back of a closet. My sled. Now I had two problems. I'd ruined my Christmas surprise and to my dismay, there was no snow. Not one flake."

I went to sleep on Christmas Eve disappointed. When I woke up on Christmas morning, I couldn't believe it. Not only was there a sled under the tree for

me, there had been a snow-storm overnight while I slept. I'll never forget my excitement."

Long before Santa's pants and jacket turned red, he wore a full-length robe and almost any color was acceptable.

Oakland Association of Realtors 2002 President, Evelyn Walker

"One of my favorite Christmas memories concerns my son, when he was little. One Christmas Eve he announced he did not want to leave out the traditional, ordinary cookies and milk for Santa. This year he would set out carrots, celery and lettuce for the reindeer. I didn't have a problem with that, but it wasn't nearly as enjoyable for my husband to eat up the evidence."

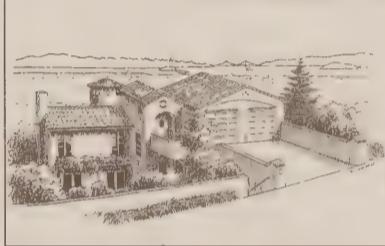
Stringing popcorn garlands to hang on the tree is an old tradition. Unambitious Victorian Era women purchased red and green popcorn garlands from less affluent women who needed extra money.

Hadi Monsef, Alameda Association of Realtors 2002 President

"I first came to this country in 1956. I was delighted with the many holiday traditions and festivities here. Every country has its

See REID, Page B4

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BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

Happy Holidays

Bobbie Reid

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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One story end unit. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, completely remodeled. New carpet, new appliances. Overlooks courtyard.

Seniors Real Estate Specialist

Evelyn Kennedy has been awarded the Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES) designation. She has demonstrated that she has the knowledge and expertise required to assist seniors to make wise decisions about selling the family home, buying rental property or managing capital gains and other tax implications or owning real estate.

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Montclair Better Homes Realty

I would like to thank all of my friends and clients for giving me another record-breaking year!

Your support and confidence in me has made all the difference.

I wish you all the joy and happiness of the holiday season with good health, peace and prosperity in 2002.

Best Wishes
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Wishing You a
Wonderful Holiday Season
Shared with
Family and Friends



D.J. Grubb

John Karnay

Donald Grubb Sr.

Josephine O'Shaughnessy

A story to cozy up with on a winter's night

Return to #265 in a series of true experiences in real estate from December 1998

Once I read a book about a woman snowbound all alone in a cabin in Alaska. She and her husband had made their annual trip to do fishing. They'd planned to leave for home as they always did before the weather got bad but, worse luck, they'd been caught by an early snow and an avalanche.

Buried by snow but otherwise unhurt, the poor woman had struggled out, had searched and called in vain for her husband, and managed to reach their cabin. Fortunately, they had stored some dry firewood there, as well as various canned goods and, although she was frightened and cold, she was grateful for her life.

It happened that the woman was pregnant. Yes, the baby was due before long and would be born while she was there alone in the cabin — unless she could get out. Right away, before more snow arrived, she made a break for it. She bound herself up in layers of clothes and made her way to the boat she and her husband had anchored nearby.

She got the engine started but it died. When she saw another boat in the distance, she fired flares but no one came. Finally, exhausted, she began the trek back to the cabin, moving heavily, falling frequently, and on one of the falls, she broke her arm.

Back at the cabin, she thawed out by the fire, slept fitfully, and upon awakening, looked about for materials to set her broken bone. Ah, the cardboard tube from a roll of waxed paper, slit down the center and wrapped with a dishtowel would do. With her good arm, she stoked the fire, prepared a meager meal, and contemplated her situation.

The wind howled; the snow swirled and mounted higher. For weeks and weeks the woman watched her firewood supply dwindle knowing that there would be no more. She parceled out the wood carefully, staying in bed much of the time. She talked to herself and occasionally sang, sewed garments for the baby, and wrote long passages in her journal. The winter went on.

During the time that I was reading this book, I was living by myself in a small apartment in an old house. As the story progressed, my little place and I became those in the story. We were cold and dark. As I read, I gathered blankets

around me. I stared out my windows at the "snow" that was "falling" there.

I didn't have a fireplace or I would have commenced chopping wood and stacking it tidily. Instead, I refinished wood. With rags and stain, I'd spend a time covering over dents and scrapes in the finish of the old beams and wood trim in my "cabin" before picking up the book again. It was soothng work; I was making things better.

The baby came and the woman managed and they were fine. Then, just as the woman and I were becoming accustomed to our plight, it ended. There was a pounding on the woman's cabin door, so startling, so unexpected that it almost scared us both to death.

Standing outside the door in the snow was an Indian. He had been astonished to see smoke from her chimney and had come to see who was there.

It turned out that the woman's husband had been wintering over with the Indian not far from the cabin. He wasn't dead after all. This is all I can remember now about the ending. I suppose they got in their boat and went home as soon as they could.

My bones still chilly, I returned the book to the library, and gradually went back to my life. A year or so later I bought a house with a fireplace. I ordered firewood delivered which I stacked conveniently outside my front door, and I built crackling fires in my fireplace most every night.

I had plenty of firewood but I found myself bringing home every scrap of wood I could find. I'd be driving down a street on a bright day, for instance, warmth by fire far from my mind, then suddenly spy a pile of wood scraps at a construction site. Before I knew it, I was out of the car asking if I could have any of the wood for myself.

This must have been when I remembered the Alaska snow book which I determined to find again. I knew the title and author then (I don't anymore), but a search revealed that the library no longer had it, it was out of print, and I couldn't locate it at a used book store.

Too bad, I guess, but its absence was what got me started collecting other books about isolated living.

I have half a dozen or so good ones now, most of them stories of people who by choice went to the snowy back woods of somewhere usually, they said, for the quiet and to look at deer, bears and birds.

Buying a home is one of the biggest decisions — both financially and emotionally — you will make in your lifetime.

If you're a first-time buyer, you're probably thrilled about making the jump from apartment renting to owning your own house.

While you're excited, however, you also may be a bit overwhelmed by the procedures involved. Relocating or move-up buyers have the advantage of past experience, but still might need a refresher course on the intricacies of the process.

The buying process involves several steps, from finding a Realtor to making an offer to closing the deal. Whether you're a first-time or experienced buyer, you'll find an array of information at the California Association of Realtor's Web site that will assist you on your way to realizing your goal of homeownership.

To learn more log onto to the Web site at car.org/consumer-info/buy/index.html.

Be kind to the environment. Please recycle this newspaper.

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2 BDRM/1 BATH Co-op at Woodside. Large courtyard location. \$215,000

1810 MAIN ST.
Freshly Painted 1 BDRM/1 BATH Co-op at Woodstock. New flooring. \$150,000

SAN LEANDRO
NEW LISTING
14248 OUTRIGGER DR.
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\$329,000

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WEEKLY SALES

EL CERRITO

106 Behrens St - \$407,500
1712 Julian Ct - \$425,000
958 Leneve Pl - \$345,000
5326 Potrero Av - \$290,000

EL SOBRANTE

107 Renee Ct - \$357,500

EMERYVILLE

96 Emery Bay Dr - \$275,000

KENSINGTON

227 Yale Av - \$170,000

OAKLAND

1715 104th Av - \$235,000
1001 105th Av - \$289,000
1301 105th Av - \$200,000
1201 107th Av - \$190,000
2420 108th Av - \$290,000
2222 17th Av - \$359,000
2643 22nd Av - \$157,000
683 25th St - \$258,000
821 32nd St - \$347,000
2255 35th Av - \$136,000
1300 54th Av - \$235,000
2621 57th Av - \$234,000
1905 58th Av #8 - \$91,000
1193 60th Av - \$234,000
1839 64th Av - \$195,500
679 66th St - \$472,000
3540 72nd Av - \$255,000
2712 73rd Av - \$315,000
2727 77th Av - \$100,000
2654 78th Av - \$185,000
1029 82nd Av - \$250,000
2273 86th Av - \$175,000
4432 Arcadia Av - \$425,000
4297 Atlas Av - \$500,000
5630 Bacon Rd - \$873,000
565 Bellevue #802 - \$405,500
2069 Braemar Rd - \$615,000
12001 Broadway Tr - \$715,000

33 Madison St - \$359,000
372 Portola Av - \$428,500
15 Remond Av - \$422,500
159 Santa Fe Av - \$500,000
159 Sturridge Av - \$155,000
165 Telbot Av - \$463,000

108 7th St - \$495,000
228 Allston Wy - \$300,000
229 Burnett St - \$277,000
18 California St - \$765,000
306 Derby St - \$765,000
331 Dwight Wy - \$345,000
343 Francisco St - \$471,000
345 Fresno Av - \$602,500
366 Hermon St - \$215,000
15 Hopkins St #5 - \$105,000
141 Josephine St - \$675,000
3525 MLK Jr Wy - \$649,000
355 Mathews St - \$275,000
12 Michigan Av - \$540,000
177 Mir Jr Wy - \$400,000
229 San Pablo Av - \$535,000
333 San Pablo Av - \$535,000
360 Shasta Rd - \$580,000
1 Spruce St - \$500,000
40 The Alameda - \$1,010,000
40 Wildcat Canyon - \$549,000

Real rates up from last week

One-year ARM slips
slightly from previous level

REED, VA - In Freddie Mac's latest Mortgage Market Survey, one-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.09 percent, with an average of 0.8 point, (1 point equals one percent of the loan amount) for the week ending Dec. 14. This bell-

lows rose 25 basis points from

last week. A year ago, one-year fixed-rate mortgage av-

eraged 7.42 percent.

The average for the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage this week is

7.01 percent, up from last week when

one-year fixed-rate mortgage av-

eraged 7.01 percent. A year ago,

one-year fixed-rate mortgage av-

eraged 7.11 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed ad-

justable mortgages (ARMs) av-

eraged 5.19 percent this week, with

an average 0.8 point, almost un-
changed from last week's average of
5.21 percent. This time last year, the
one-year ARM averaged 7.05 percent.

"Fixed-rates jumped this week,
while the 1-year ARM edged down
a little in response to the Fed's re-
cent actions," said Frank Nothaft,
Freddie Mac chief economist.

"But although long-term rates
bumped up this week, mortgage
rates today are in about the same
range they were at the beginning of

the year. They are still at histori-
cally low levels, which help

keep housing more affordable for
first-time homebuyers. This
should ensure that the housing
sector remains vibrant going into

the new year.

"Although the timing of the eco-
nomic recovery may be uncertain,
housing will continue to be an im-
portant contributor to the turn-
around that is expected next year."

The average for the 15-year
fixed-rate mortgage this week is

7.01 percent, up from last week when

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eraged 7.01 percent. A year ago,

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eraged 7.11 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed ad-

justable mortgages (ARMs) av-

eraged 5.19 percent this week, with



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36 Units 3255 Mt. Diablo Ct. Lafayette \$3,900,000 Sale Pending!
36 Units 1230 Brookside Dr. San Pablo \$2,375,000 Sold!
9 Units 1313 M. L. King Blvd. Berkeley \$995,000 Sold!
6 Units 1802 Channing Way Berkeley \$749,000 Sold!

Dan Woodworth 974-7613

woodworth@securitypacific.com
Security Pacific Real Estate Services



Lois' real estate hints

You fall in love with a wonderful color: spring green, summer plum or burnished gold. It is you! For your purposes now, "Realtor beige" might be the color of choice. It's a good background for all furnishings, and allows buyers to envision how they would express their personalities. How they would make it their own. That's the way to sell.

Lois can be reached at the Grand Lake office of Prudential California Realty, 510-834-2010; fax 510-834-3841; voice mail 510-287-2521; e-mail Lois.Harris@PruWeb.com.



LOIS HARRIS
REALTOR

EL SOBRANTE

24 Monticello Av - \$577,500
230 Palm Dr - \$665,000
242 Palm Dr - \$672,000
1092 Park Ln - \$821,000

2417 Marina Bl - \$340,000
379 Napoleon Ct - \$385,000
15005 Norton St - \$325,000
14977 Portofino Cr - \$395,000
14200 Rose Dr - \$284,000
520 Victoria Ct - \$330,000
1794 Vining Dr - \$347,000
2077 Washington #208 - \$160,000
2246 West Av 134th - \$299,000
1588 Willow Av - \$335,000

RICHMOND

657 12th St - \$102,500
408 21st St - \$305,000
981 32nd St - \$194,000
120 4th St - \$146,000
1035 Campbell St - \$240,000
3521 Center Av - \$235,000
5022 Esmond Av - \$260,000
5918 Kipling Dr - \$425,000
2881 McBryde Av - \$207,500
3130 McBryde Av - \$260,000
671 Mesa Wy - \$300,000
3138 Roosevelt Av - \$212,500
5647 San Jose Av - \$369,000
2120 Sand Dollar Dr - \$314,000
325 South 8th St - \$226,500
3525 Wall Av - \$205,000
5324 Woodgate Ct - \$410,000

SAN LORENZO

16041 Bayberry Ln - \$420,000
959 Bevilacqua St - \$282,000
16381 Kent Av - \$350,000
16029 Penn Av - \$435,000
15933 Via Granada - \$235,000
1900 Via Natal - \$315,000
16106 Via Segundo - \$320,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA
TOTAL SALES: 13
LOWEST PRICE: \$163,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$955,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$379,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$412,115

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$155,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$500,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$388,000

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 21
LOWEST PRICE: \$105,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,010,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$535,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$504,214

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$290,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$545,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$416,875

SAN LEONARD

TOTAL SALES: 34
LOWEST PRICE: \$160,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$615,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$332,836

SANTOLORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$235,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$435,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$320,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$336,714

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BERKELEY



Designed by Ratcliff
In prestigious Claremont Court, this home offers very spacious proportions with great charm! The property features 5 bedrooms, office, large family room, formal dining, 4.5 baths, level entry, & a fenced yard!

Bebe McRae x145

\$1,100,000



Close to Campus!
Stately Edwardian with beautiful original details & built-ins! 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, den, formal dining, eat-in kitchen! Large attic room!

Bebe McRae x145

\$750,000



36 Roanoke Road
Remodeled Claremont home! Light & bright! Vaulted ceilings, large living/dining room opens to kitchen! 3BR/3BA, study, garage, decks, garden. Excellent condition!

Susie Schevill x144

\$550,000



542 Santa Barbara OFFICE EXCLUSIVE
Very spacious, updated & expanded brown shingle on one of North Berkeley's most sought after streets! 5BR, 2.5 BA, separate studio/office. Beautifully finished space. Lovely garden, fabulous views!

Ruth Frassetto x147

\$925,000



54 Vincente Road • Views & Location
Rancho San Jose property in the hills! Two panels were merged to create this incredible 32,000 sq ft lot! Mostly level, neighborhood of distinguished homes.

Faye Keogh x126

\$1,650,000

\$1,650,000

Ante Van Dyke x137

\$799,000

\$799,000

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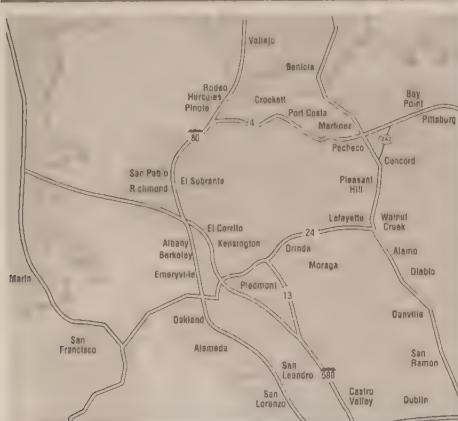
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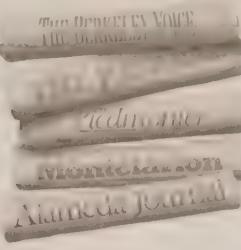
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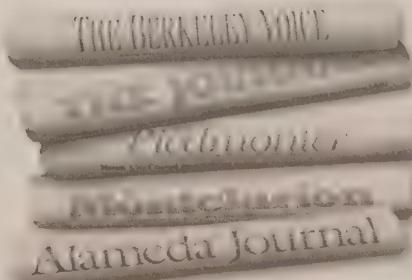
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Lest long Winter Nights seem gloomy, consider this uplifting fact: The extra hours are quite roomy for fireside toasts and all of that.



Kelly Deal
(510) 484-4300

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REALTORS

Happy Holidays!
I'll see you
in 2002!

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May all of
your holiday
dreams and wishes
come true!

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Logene Butler, Realtor
(510) 701-4344
logenb@aol.com

Wishing you &
your family a
happy & healthy
holiday season.

Kim Habu

Best Wishes
for a joyous season
& Peace on Earth!

Tricia Swift

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Bebe McRae
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Thanks for a great year.
Wishing everyone old
fashion joys, happy
memories and all of the
joys of the season.

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Happy Holidays!
I look forward
to working
with you in 2002.

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Best Wishes
for a
Joyous New Year!

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3070 Claremont Ave., Berkeley 94705 • (510) 652-2133

Most of All...
Peace in
2002

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Nancy Hinkley
Realtor
Office: (510) 428-0900
Voice Mail: (510) 433-2842

342 Highland Ave. • Piedmont

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Season's
Greetings

from Hills Newspapers

Season's Greetin

Best Wishes for
Wonderful 2002

PRUD
California

Wishing you
Peace
and
Joy!

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Heartfelt thanks and con-
tinued prosperity to all our clients

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Merry Christ-
mas and a New
Year
to my clients

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Peace & Prosp-
erity to all
for 2002.

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erity to all
for 2002.

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Happiness &
Peace in the
New Year

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piness in 2002.

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Marlene Leverette
TEMPLETON LEVERETTE COMPANY
3070 Claremont Ave., Berkeley 94705 • (510) 652-2133



Helene Barkin
TEMPLETON LEVERETTE COMPANY
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Peace & Hap-
piness in 2002.

The Warmest Holiday Wishes

FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE COMMUNITY



Wishing you a New Year of Joy, Hope and Renewed Purpose!

PACIFIC UNION



Season's Greetings

Sending you and yours all the best - serenity, love, health and happiness!

PACIFIC UNION



To my family, clients and friends

Thank you for your support throughout the year.

Have A Joyous Holiday Season!

RICHARDSON
REAL ESTATE SERVICES



Happy Holidays & Warm Wishes this New Year

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Wishing You Peace and Happiness for the New Year!

PACIFIC UNION



Best Wishes to You for Peace & Joy in the New Year!

PACIFIC UNION



Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!

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May your home be filled with the Spirit of Peace and Love!

PACIFIC UNION



Joy & Fulfillment in 2002!

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Wishing You Peace On Earth In The New Year!

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Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year!

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Wishing You Joy In Your Home And Peace In The New Year

PACIFIC UNION



Wishing You Health, Happiness, and a Prosperous New Year!

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Happy Holidays

Warm Wishes to Your Family from Ours This Holiday Season

Grazina Bivins
(510) 451-8007



Happy Holidays and my best to you throughout this New Year!

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Wishing You Peace This Holiday Season with Health, Happiness and Prosperity in the New Year!

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Have a Magical Holiday!

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A RECENTLY RESTORED ITALIANATE HOUSE, now a hotel.

Wilson

FROM PAGE B2

university professor of literature) and her stepfather. This house was built in 1902, and retains its original, ornately carved oak front door. The living quarters are on the second floor, a common feature of homes in the Habana Centro district. The second story has a spacious living room with a balcony overlooking the street, a formal dining room, a kitchen, a large bathroom, and a total of five bedrooms.

The ceilings in this house are nearly fourteen feet high, and there are handsome cast iron Corinthian pilasters lining the doorways between the main rooms. The balcony has an intricate wrought iron railing, a classic feature of Victorian- and Edwardian-era homes throughout Cuba.

Yohana's family is in the process of restoring their house, but it is a slow and painstaking process. They have done much of the work themselves, such as painting and plaster repairs. For the more specialized tasks, such as electrical work

and carpentry, they have had to hire skilled laborers, of whom there is a real shortage in Havana now due to all of the restoration work going on in the city.

One of the jobs that still needs to be completed is the replacement of the glass panels in the old fan-light windows that grace the living room wall above the balcony.

The cost of this work including materials, if they pay for all the labor, will be around \$500. While this sum is a fraction of what it would cost in the US, it is a small fortune in Cuba, where the average professor's salary is around \$50 a month.

In part three of this series, I will discuss some of the joint venture restorations projects of historic buildings in Havana. I will also describe what has been learned from the various sister city relationships between various Cuban and Bay Area communities.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit him at www.topbroker.com/wilson.

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A World of Best Wishes from All of Us

May all the happiness of the holiday season be yours and may 2002 bring health and prosperity to you.

At the close of another record-breaking year, we would like to thank our clients and friends for your confidence and support.

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John Vail
Patricia Williams
Pearl Wong



SPORTS

• Friday, December 21, 2001 •

Section C

Roundup Broncos pounce on Panthers; Gauchos lose [C2]

Arts 'Lord' is a great film [C3]

Winter soccer: a separate identity



MIKE MCGREEHAN
Between the Lines

OME BASEBALL teams emphasize home runs and others contact hitting. Baseball is either slow-down or tempo. And football has various such varied offenses as the wishbone and the run-sprint.

Perhaps the greatest variation in a single sport, though, is place on soccer fields around the world.

Some soccer teams are aggressive and energetic. Others play a more flowing, elegant, sophisticated game. Then there are others that adopt a clinical approach, stressing mind over body above all else.

Different styles are easily identifiable in high school soccer. Variations occur from league to league and team to team. But soccer is unique in that high school sports in our teams play in fall, winter and spring. And like the seasons themselves, variations in soccer style also occur from season to the next.

Those who follow these games closely will notice that soccer in winter is generally

parts of the world. But soccer here also is a microcosm of soccer worldwide, its diversity of styles reflecting the diversity of the people who play it as well as the various conditions under which it is played.

"Climate could have (had an influence) on soccer many, many years ago," says Moreau Catholic High School boys coach Kevin Ogle, a native of England, where his father once played professionally and still coaches. "In colder countries, the game is more about pace and physical fitness. In hotter climates, it's slower and more about skill."

Of course, certain types of play become a habit, even when the weather heats up in a normally cold area or cools down in a normally warm one.

"The difference is huge," Ogle says. "British and Northern European is more physical, has more physical demands, while South American and Southern European soccer is more skills-based. The game is slower and more technical."

Locally, teams that play in

the fall or spring tend to reflect a South American or Southern European style, styles played best on dry fields. Boys teams from the Oakland Athletic League and Bay Counties League East fit this mold well. Winter teams, such as Bishop O'Dowd and Moreau Catholic of the Hayward Area Athletic League, tend to fall more in the British mold.

But reasons for increased physical play, some argue, go beyond climate and field condition. Take the O'Dowd-Moreau Catholic boys match of Dec. 7 as an example.

"Between Moreau and O'Dowd there really is a 'derby' atmosphere; both are private schools and both compete in the NCS 2A (division)," O'Dowd coach Pete Belanger says. "Many of the players play on the same club teams and have been coached by the same coaches. The parents know one another, etc. There is a lot of pride on the line here."

"I don't think that the intention is to

See MCGREEHAN, Page C2



WINTER SOCCER? Expect to get down and dirty

New gym, new coach, new hopes

Unless last year, Cougars girls are 4-3

By Dean Rosener
CORRESPONDENT

• 22 orphans of the storm bask in 4-3 sunshine now, but a gym, without a win last year, the Albany High girls' basketball team has battled back to stability this year.

Prep girls' basketball

Albany 59
Richmond 23

Albany high school (which includes a brand-new gym) Tuesday, they trounced Richmond 59-23 in a nonleague game past a .500 record.

How precious are the games? The co-captains of the team are only sophomores and effectively complementary guards, senior 5-3 Jodi Nagakura is a fast passer with a high-arching outside shot that almost seems to hit the new ceiling, while fellow senior Stephanie Wissler is a powerful 5-7 slasher who shoots three-pointers.

The youthful pair dominated the first period against Richmond, Wissler scoring seven and Nagakura six as the Cougars forged a 21-12 lead. Albany kept expanding the gap: 28-14 at the half and 41-19 after three quarters.

Albany's defensive intensity led Richmond to just 11 points the last 24 minutes, 35 seconds of the game. Struggling Richmond is now 0-5.

Wissler credits new coach Connie Arnold and first-year as-

sistant Tim Dorsey for the team's turnaround.

"Last year, we thought about how much less we could lose by," Wissler said. "This year, we're so much more confident. We know we can go out and win games, unlike last season when we were zero and, like, 100."

"The new coaches are knowledgeable and committed, very serious about shaking up the program."

Actually, this season is the second go-around for Arnold, who coached the Cougars basketball team for nine years in the 1980s before switching to softball. Currently a physical education teacher at Ocean View Elementary School, Arnold found that she missed hoops.

"I just love the challenge this year's team presents," she said. "I look at this task as promising, rather than daunting. We can get better."

Arnold's major concern is that 5-11 junior Maria Martinez must carry so much of the load at center, with everyone else on the team at least four inches shorter.

"If Maria gets into foul trouble," Arnold said, "we're all in trouble."

The intense Martinez, a high honor-roll student, briefly scuffled with Richmond's Terri Brown in third period. Handshakes ensued, but both players were ejected.

Picking up the Albany slack were two gritty 5-7 forwards who outlasted the taller Oiler players. Elizabeth Ali scored 14 points (second on the team behind Nagakura's 16), while Daniella Arellano came off the bench to add eight.

The Cougars believe they have another new weapon — their beautiful new gym.

"It's bright, it's light, it makes us want to defend our home court," Dorsey said.

Albany had to play its home



IN A FOUL MOOD, Albany's Jodi Nagakura collided with Richmond's Tamara Daniels during their Dec. 18 contest in Albany. Playing in their new gymnasium, the Cougars routed the Oilers 59-23 to improve to 4-3.

games last year at Albany Middle School, and journeyed all the way up to Alameda Point to practice.

But Wissler saw one bright spot in the travel travails.

"Those long trips brought us closer together," she said.

Those sojourns didn't seem to

See DREAM, Page C2

'Jackets taking rivals to the mat

SPECIAL TO HILLS NEWS PAPERS

Berkeley High School promises to have a young, eager and exciting team this winter. The Yellow Jackets began the season with 46 wrestlers, 35 of whom come to practice regularly. Many are new to the program, including 24 freshmen and 14 sophomores.

On Dec. 8, the Yellow Jackets took 17

wrestlers (nine freshmen, eight sophomores) — all boys — to the Foothill High School Frosh-Soph Tournament in Pleasanton. At day's end, eight of the Berkeley wrestlers had medaled.

Freshman Daniel Burley and sophomore Carlo Cornejo each took first in his class. Freshman Jonah Tabb and sophomore Antal Polony each grabbed second-place honors. Freshmen Stephan Gordon-Richardson and David Vargas, along with sophomores Marlon Boddy and Nick Riley, enjoyed third-place finishes.

Berkeley girls

Berkeley's girls went to the 40-team Mid-Peninsula Classic Junior Varsity Tournament in Burlingame a day earlier.

Berkeley girls tournament coach Hugh Johnson thought he had his team entered in a tournament that used pooled weights. Instead, the Mid-Peninsula employed the 14 weight classes recognized by the California Interscholastic Federation.

To their credit, the girls wres-

tled anyway against much stronger juniors and seniors. Christie Raveria was superb in terms of technique. Raveria had one exciting match in particular, where the score was knotted at 5-5 in the third period. But Raveria got caught in a head-and-arm, couldn't get out of it, and so lost the match. But she wasn't outwrestled.

Three years of hard work appear to be paying off for Sarah Rivera, who took sixth place in her bracket of 16 wrestlers. Coach Johnson said Rivera showed exceptional technique and won a lot of respect — even in the matches she lost.

Earlier action

On Dec. 1, 28 Yellow Jackets wrestlers competed in the Dave Lidell Invitational at Vallejo High. Of those, 15 — or 53.5 percent — advanced to the championship or consolation finals of their divisions.

Among the girls, Lily Derman and Monique Le each took second place in their four-wrestler round robin. Sarah Rivera was third in her eight-wrestler bracket.

Kris Austin and Dyamen Bey, were second and third, respectively, in a boys junior varsity eight-wrestler bracket.

Berkeley also had 10 freshman wrestlers place in their brackets of eight. Marlon Boddy, Carlo Cornejo and Nick Riley each captured first place in his bracket. Luc Maheu and Stephan Gordon-Richardson each finished second. Antal Polony and Alfonso Thomas both took third. Sam Hammer, Graham Heimer and Jarrett Griffith all enjoyed fourth-place finishes.

See WRESTLING, Page C2

Jackets find Valley unpleasant

Vikings outshoot top-ranked Yellowjackets on home court

By Curtis Elliott
CORRESPONDENT

When a team is ranked No. 1 in the Bay Area you expect to see them play very good basketball. In this case, the great basketball team wasn't played by the No. 1 team. Instead it was their opponents, the Pleasant Valley Vikings, who defeated the Yellowjackets 72-61.

Playing at Donohue Gymnasium, Viking Lauren Himespach shot the lights out, scoring 31 points and making an amazing 16 of 19 free throws. The entire Pleasant Valley team put on a shooting clinic as they shot 80 percent from the charity stripe.

Anna Griffith added 18 points and teammates Erin Gonzalez (11) and Jenny Ferguson (10) also scored in double figures. Making matters worse was that

Berkeley was outrebounded 29-20.

"They played very consistent basketball," Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura said. As for their No. 1 ranking in the Contra Costa Times poll, "To me it's where you are at the end of the season. I could care less where we're ranked (now)."

Still, in the early going, the Yellow Jackets (4-3) forced four early turnovers and trailed just 13-10 after one quarter of play. Berkeley's Angelita Hutton had buried a 3-pointer to temporarily tie it at 10.

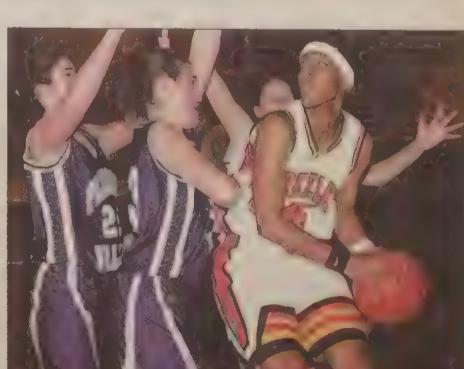
Sabrina Keys began to come to life in the second quarter for Berkeley. On one play she beat a

triple team for an easy lay-up. She scored another against a double-team and another triple-team bucket. She was the offense for the Yellow Jackets in the quarter.

"I was getting triple-teamed in the post," Keys said. "I'd kick it back out and we tried to shoot 3s. We mainly go inside-outside."

Incredibly, Keys seemed to thrive under the competition of additional bodies, as she led Berkeley with 16 hard-fought points. Keys also led the team with seven boards. No other Yellow Jacket cleared the glass more than once in the first half.

See JACKETS, Page C2



UNDER PRESSURE, Berkeley's Sabrina Keys looked to the hoop for help. Playing Pleasant Valley in Berkeley on Dec. 14, the Yellow Jackets lost to the Vikings 72-61.

Arts

'Lord of the Rings is great

Tolkien's epic is adapted with breathtaking visuals, emotion

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

PETER JACKSON'S "The Fellowship of the Ring," the first of three movies adapted from J.R.R. Tolkien's monumental epic "The Lord of the Rings," is a soulful, passionate giant of a movie, one that will live long past 2001.

It sweeps you up, enraptures you with its storytelling and leaves you rejoicing that there are filmmakers out there who have the guts to make a movie destined for vast commercial success that's also intelligent and ferociously heartfelt.

The ring in question, the ring that starts it all, was forged long ago in the fires of a hellish place called Mordor by Sauron, a dark lord. The ring embodies all his cruelty and cunning. Merely having it in your house is enough to eat away at your soul. Put it on and you become invisible to all but the forces of evil, who will be drawn to you like moths to a flame.

The ring was taken in battle from Sauron ages ago, shown in a prologue that practically steams with energy; and he, long thought to be dead or dormant and now reviving, needs it back in order to conquer Middle-earth. But for years the ring has been in the possession of a gentle hobbit named Bilbo Baggins (Ian Holm), who happened upon it years ago in a mountain cavern, and knows nothing of its true power.

The story picks up as Bilbo is retiring, leaving his cozy home in the bucolic Shire and heading off into the wild, having bequeathed all of his possessions, including the ring, to his nephew, Frodo Baggins (Elijah Wood). Bilbo and Frodo have long been watched over by Gandalf (Ian McKellen), a wise and kindly wizard who has a deep appreciation for the hidden courage and talents of hobbits.

Gandalf discovers the truth about the ring and tells Frodo he must take the ring to Mordor and toss it in the fire it was forged in, the only way to destroy it. Frodo is terrified but dutifully sets out, with his loyal hobbit friends Samwise Gamgee (Sean Astin), Merry (Dominic Monaghan) and Pippin (Billy Boyd). Along the way, the Fellowship swells to nine, including Gandalf; two men, Aragorn (the outrageously manly Viggo Mortensen) and Boromir (Sean Bean); Gimli (John Rhys-Davies); and an elf named Legolas (Orlando Bloom). Together they brave many dark moments, and when the story reaches its end, after nearly three



MOVIE REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "The Fellowship of the Ring"
■ **STARRING:** Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Astin, Liv Tyler, Cate Blanchett
■ **RATING:** PG-13 (for epic battle sequences and scary images)
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 58 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opened Wednesday at area theaters
■ **GRADE:** A

cinematic hours, they are still far from Mordor.

Jackson, a director who started his career with a series of over-the-top horror films and then won respect with his spooky, sensuous "Heavenly Creatures," was the perfect choice to take on Tolkien. He clearly loves and respects the story, but he knew things had to be changed or the movie would have been six hours long and slow going. Those who complained that Christopher Columbus didn't lend his own imagination to J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" should be much happier with the way Jackson has breathed life into Tolkien (frankly, this movie makes "Harry" seem pleasant but pallid).

Most important, Jackson knows terror, knows how to

See LORD, Page C5



CLOCKWISE from top: In J.R.R. Tolkien's "Fellowship of the Ring," Hobbits band together on a quest to destroy a powerful, evil ring; Viggo Mortensen cuts a fine figure as the mysterious Aragorn; director Peter Jackson, known for his horror films, doesn't hold back in the portrayal of the Black Riders, who are chasing the Fellowship to capture the ring; Ian McKellen is eloquent as the kindly wizard Gandalf.

'Trojan War' takes on new resonance in current climate



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

Bucking the usual holiday tradition of presenting warm and fuzzy feel-good fare at this time of year, derring-do director Patrick Dooley and his Shotgun Players have made the gutsy choice of a heavyweight — "There Will Be No Trojan War" by Jean Giraudoux, now playing weekends at the Eighth Street Theatre, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley.

It was a calculated choice by Dooley, founder and artistic director of Shotgun, a challenge, he writes in a program note, "...a dare to our audiences to 'play chicken' with Destiny and find another way to resolve the crisis that now grips us."

"We believe that Giraudoux wrote this play when he did," Dooley writes, "for the same reasons that we have chosen to adjust our season and present it now. For Giraudoux, failure was not defined by losing to your opponent, but by giving up on yourself."

The company previously had scheduled a production of Adam Bock's original play, "The Fairy's Tail," to close its 2001 season. The whimsical play will instead launch Shotgun's residency in downtown Berkeley's Gaia Building sometime in March 2002.

"Trojan War" was written in 1935 as European passions and politics were simmering before boiling over into World War II four years later. Giraudoux saw

a parallel between what was happening then and what his story had drawn from ancient Greek and Trojan epics.

"There Will Be No Trojan War" begins with the victorious return of Hector, the leading Trojan general and oldest son of Troy's King Priam. This central role is given a robust reading by Malcolm Brownson.

Fred Ochs brings a wiry intensity to his portrayal of Priam. But a chastened and troubled Hector comes home not to gloat, but to convince Ulysses (Michael Asberry) and the populace that a battlefield vision while dispatching an enemy has revealed to him that waging war is a disguised form of suicide.

The leaders agree that the Trojan War will not take place. Of course it does — fueled by power, politics, sex, deceit, intrigue and all the other noble forces in human overdrive.

Clive Worsley as Demokos delivers a sharply drawn performance. Roxana Ortega, making her first appearance



DANIEL DAVID/SPECIAL TO HILLS NEWSPAPERS
CENTRAL WORKS' hilarious new play 'Every Inch a King' features Claudia Rosa, Sandra Schlechter and Rica Anderson as the Leroy sisters.

EVENTS

Stage

Berkeley Repertory Theatre —

"Much Ado About Nothing," by William Shakespeare, through Jan. 8. Beatrice and Benedick, who would much rather quarrel, find themselves thrown together when they try to repair a broken relationship. \$10 to \$54. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 22, Dec. 27, Dec. 29, and Jan. 5, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; NO PERFORMANCES DEC. 25.

2015 Addison St., Berkeley 510-647-2949, (888) 488-7111 or www.berkeleyrep.org

Eighth Street Studio Theatre —

"There Will Be No Trojan War" by Jean Giraudoux, through Jan. 12. The story of Hector, the leading Trojan general who realizes that waging war is a disguised form of "suicide" that will eventually destroy him. Presented by the Shotgun Players.

\$15 to \$20 general; \$10 students and seniors. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley, 510-704-8210 or www.shotgunplayers.org

The Masquers Playhouse —

"Inspecting Carol," closing Dec. 22. In this hit play from Seattle, a man walks into a small Midwestern theatre and asks for an audition, but the crew suspects him of being an informer for the National Endowment for the Arts and zombies right up.

\$12, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; 105 Park Place, Richmond 510-232-4031 or www.masquers.org

Popular Music

Ashkenaz —

David Fest, Aux Cajunals, Nigerian Brothers, Tropical Vibrations, Dec. 21, 8 p.m. \$8

Sensa Samba, Dec. 22, 9 p.m. \$11. Licksnatch, DJ Tony Moses, Dec. 25, 10 p.m. \$5

Zulu Spear, Dec. 26, 9 p.m. \$10. Mood Swing Orchestra, Dec. 28, 9:30 p.m. \$11

Canbeban All Stars, Dec. 29, 9:30 p.m. \$11

Marimba Pacific, Dec. 30, 8 p.m. \$8

1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com

Blake's On Telegraph —

ITang, Dec. 21, 8:30

Most Chill, Slackmob, Dec. 22, \$6

Octavious, Blakntron, Dec. 23, \$3

Hebro, Dec. 26, Upstarts in the Tinibar, Free

Electronica with Ascension, Dec. 27, \$5

First Circle, Dec. 28, \$5

Jack West and Curvature, Freaktet, Dec. 29, \$5

Manzco, Dec. 30, \$3

Planting Seeds, Dec. 31, \$12

For ages 18 and up. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886

Cato's Ale House —

The Minton-Lewis Trio, Dec. 22, Good for Cows, Dec. 23,

Vince Wallace Trio, Dec. 26, 26. The Pinchhogs, Dec. 29,

The Lost Trio, Dec. 30

Free shows at 6 p.m. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3349 or www.mrcato.com

Downtown —

Danny Caron, Dec. 21 and Dec. 28

The Ned Boynton Combo, Dec. 29

Michael Bluestein Trio, Dec. 29

Will Bernard, piano, Tuesdays

Dave Matthews, piano, Wednesdays

Macy Blackman, piano, Thursdays

2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-3810

Freight And Salvage —

Winter Holiday Revue, Dec. 21

With Laurie Lewis, Tom Rozum, the Claridge Family, Jon Wilcox, Steve Seskin, the Mighty Prince Singers and the Crooked Jades

\$15.50 to \$16.50

Oak, Ash and Thorn, Dec. 22

\$16.50 to \$17.50

Box Set, Dec. 28, \$15.50 to \$16.50

Kathy Kallico, Nina Gerber, Dec. 29, \$15.50 to \$16.50

Music at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-1761 or 510-762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

Henry J. Kaiser Auditorium —

Phil Lesh and Friends, Ratdog, Dec. 30, 6 p.m. \$35

10 Tenth St., Oakland, (415) 421-TIXS

La Pena Cultural Center —

Quinteto America, Dec. 21, 8:30 p.m. \$12

Edgardo and Candela, Dec. 22, 9:30 p.m. \$12

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org

Music In The Plaza - Sponsored by the Downtown Berkeley Association

Girl Talk, Dec. 22, 3:30 p.m.

Free, Downtown Berkeley Plaza, Berkeley, 510-549-2230 ext. 11 or www.downtownberkeley.org

924 Gilman St. —

Amber Asylum, Kepi, Bonfire Madigan, Kevin Seconds, Wendy-O-Matic, Dec. 21

The Lab Rats, One Time Angels, A Great Divide, Last Great Liar

See EVENTS, Page C5

Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Thursday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free support group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. For more information, call PediatricCare at 531-7551.

Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a health exhibit museum of Children's Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, features puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness and Down syndrome. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community, health-education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 549-9682.

The City of El Cerrito, offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Moser Lane. For more information, call Julie, 215-4371.

LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at famlyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560 classes.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at actual University of California field research stations; and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2275 or e-mail to: lhinfo@uclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Community

St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727

College Ave., presents its do it yourself Christmas Tableaux at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, following the 10 a.m. worship service. Children and adults are invited to be a part of the Christmas story by dressing as angels, shepherds, wise person, Mary and Joseph, and having their picture taken by the manager. Costumes and cameras will be provided. There will also be opportunities for candle making and Christmas crafts. Call 845-6830 for more information.

Julia Morgan Center of the Arts features a "New Year's Eve Gala Concert," by the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31. Edgar Braun conducts a program of classical favorites for this 16th annual New Year's Eve Gala performance of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. Musical selections include classical favorites such as Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony and Beethoven's masterpiece violin concerto, featuring 14-year-old violin virtuoso Nathan Olson. Tickets: \$15, available at the door. For more details, call the center at 845-8542 or visit the Web site at www.juliamorgan.org.

Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., presents a free holiday "Family Day" for children and adults from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 25. Art projects, live music by Gerry Tenney and California Klezmer at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The event also features a "Princess Moxie Rules," a 30 minute puppet musical and puppet-making projects and much more. Complimentary snacks and beverages will be provided. Call 549-6950 for more information.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts presents "A Celtic Peace: A Bay Area Celtic Christmas Celebration," at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23. Celebrate the Winter Solstice and the Christmas season with an evening of Irish music and dance with Todd Denman and friends. The event is an evening with the entire family. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, available at the door. For more information, call 845-6542.

Exhibits

Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Duran Ave., continues its exhibit of "Ansel Adams from the University of California Collection," through March 10. The exhibition consists of a selection of photographs and memorabilia drawn from the extensive holdings of the UC Bancroft Library. For more information, call 643-6494.

Traywick Gallery, 1316 10th St., presents sculpture by Bay Area artist Dennis Begg from Jan. 5 through Feb. 9. This is Begg's second solo exhibition at the gallery. Showing concurrently in the gallery's back exhibition space are new works on paper by Bay Area artist Steve Briscoe. An artists reception takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5. Gallery hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, or by appointment. For more information, call 525-5054 or visit the Ashkenaz Web

"David Fest," a celebration of the life of Ashkenaz founder David Nadel, takes place at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at the Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Avenue. Three bands, "Tropical Vibrations," "Babé Ken Okulolo and the Nigerian Brothers," and "Aux Cajunals," will perform. All ages are welcome. For more information, call the showline at 525-5054 or visit the Ashkenaz Web

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FLUNKIES

BY FRED PISCOR/EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS	58	Animals with twisted horns	101	None the worse for wear, emotionally
1 Second-rate	60	"Two Years Before the Mast" writer	14	Sean ___ Lennon
7 White rat, e.g.	60	"Full House" star	15	Chicken general?
13 Donut, mathematically	107	Ladybug's prey	16	Michigan town where Thomas Dewey was born
19 Showy shrub	110	Romance novelist	17	Results of some bad QB passes
20 Enter, as data	111	Georgette	18	"Dat ___" (jazz tune)
21 Up for grabs	116	Junior partner, maybe	22	Prefix with function
23 Webcam actress?	118	Mad-dog singer?	24	Clamp shape
25 Science of programmable machines	121	Widens, in a way	29	Thingamajigs
26 Burlesque bit	122	News-making 1926 Channel swimmer	32	On top
27 It's outstanding	123	Tyro	33	Actor Lee Van
28 Passport producer	124	Setting of many Hardy novels	34	Like "The X-File"
30 Twitly turns	125	Turn in	35	Fanatical
31 Checks out carefully	126	Site of 1970's marches	36	"Built better than it has to be" slogan
33 Turners of blind eyes	127	Part of an oil lamp	37	Singer in a brawl?
35 Big Indian	128	Publum eater	38	Ocean menaces
38 Cousin of "Reh!"	129	Cross-dressing comedian?	40	Dawdling actor?
39 Schiller work adapted by Beethoven	130	Prefix with -hedron	41	Some newspaper essays
43 Ovid opus	131	Place for beaux	42	Itches
45 Lock	132	4 Miniature ruler	44	Runaway of rhyme
47 French illustrator Gustave	133	Dusk, to Donne	45	Look after
48 Not shut, to Shelley	134	Booglegones'	46	Terrib
49 "Phooey!"	135	Clark's	51	Kind of ink
50 Per	136	"Mogambo"	53	Attention-getter
52 "Suppose..."	137	co-star	57	Prefix with linear
54 Bratty	138	Make more potent	59	Not many
55 The Admiral Bonbow ___ ("Treasure Island" locale)	139	Winter Palace figures	61	Expense
56 Actress on parole?	140	92 Gloom elictor	64	Bar, in law
		97 Gloomy Gus	75	Work
		99 Quotable one		
		13 1926 La Scala premiere		
		100 Shipping weights		

call 527-1214.

Theater/Film/Dance

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts features "A Celtic Peace: A Bay Area Celtic Christmas Celebration," at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23. Celebrate the Winter Solstice and the Christmas season with an evening of Irish music and dance with Todd Denman and friends. The event is an evening with the entire family. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, available at the door. For more information, call 845-6542.

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"David Fest," a celebration of the life of Ashkenaz founder David Nadel, takes place at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at the Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Avenue. Three bands, "Tropical Vibrations," "Babé Ken Okulolo and the Nigerian Brothers," and "Aux Cajunals," will perform. All ages are welcome. For more information, call the showline at 525-5054 or visit the Ashkenaz Web

Traywick Gallery, 1316 10th St., presents sculpture by Bay Area artist Dennis Begg from Jan. 5 through Feb. 9. This is Begg's second solo exhibition at the gallery. Showing concurrently in the gallery's back exhibition space are new works on paper by Bay Area artist Steve Briscoe. An artists reception takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5. Gallery hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, or by appointment. For more information, call 525-5054 or visit the Ashkenaz Web

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American Red Cross

site at www.ashkenaz.com.

Meetings

Berkeley Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings, at the North Berkeley Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

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Music

Sing-Along Messiah, a cooperative

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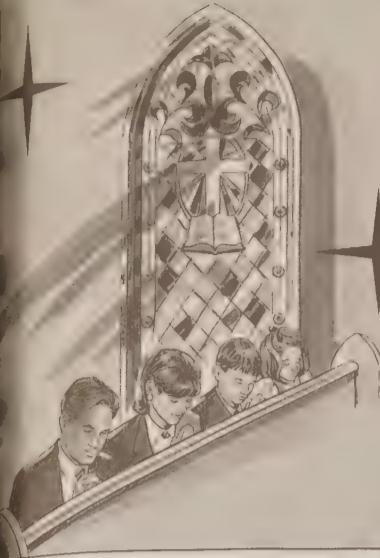
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Jul

Share the Glory of Christmas



You are invited to a Candlelight
Christmas Eve Service
Monday, December 24, 2001
8:00pm

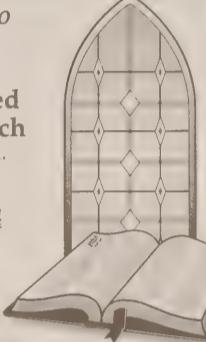


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Oakland, CA 94619
(510) 531-8212

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at
Montclair United
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Oakland 531-8208

Monday, December 24
5 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
for Families

Loving childcare is provided.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
invites you to celebrate
this Christmas Season

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Carol Service
7 pm

Christmas Day
Festival Eucharist
10 am

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Christmas Eve at
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5:00pm - Children's Service with a play, stories
and carols
10:00pm - Candlelight Service of music, poetry and
sacred words to open
the heart to the joy of Christmas

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CHRISTMAS EVE (Monday)
Eucharistic Liturgy: Family Celebration
Eucharistic Liturgy with choir

CHRISTMAS DAY (Tuesday)
Eucharistic Liturgy
Eucharistic Liturgy

NEW YEAR'S DAY (Tuesday)
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(not a Holy Day of Obligation)
Eucharistic Liturgy

REGULAR SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP
Eucharistic Liturgies: Sundays 8:30 am & 11 am Weekdays: 12:10 pm Monday to Friday
Saturdays: 8 am and 5 pm Vigil

Come celebrate the birth of light and love in our world!

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Rev. Lois Mueller, Minister

**Come, Discover the Real
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You're invited to either investigate with us or to celebrate the birth
of God come in the flesh Jesus Christ.



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24, Monday
5 pm Children's Christmas Service
10:30 pm Christmas Carols
11 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist

December 25, Christmas Day
10 am Choral Eucharist

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TO HIS PEOPLE
ON EARTH"



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We'd be honored to have you, your family and your friends
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Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 7:00* & 11:00 P.M.

A service of hymns and choral presentations featuring
the 18th and 19th century English carols.

Zion's Senior Choir will be supplemented by
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*Toddler care available at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Festival Service at 10:00 A.M.

A quiet celebration and reflection with traditional liturgy.

Zion Lutheran Church

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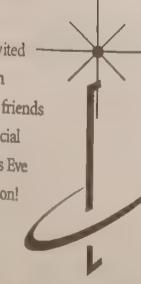
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Candlelight Christmas Eve

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24th 7:30 P.M.

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celebration!

Enjoy music by
the chorus,
the bell choir
and an
ensemble of
instrumentalists.



Refreshments after the Celebration
Child Care Provided

Christmas at St. John's

"If this birth happen not in me, what does it profit
me? What matters is that it shall happen in me."
Meister Eckhart

Christmas Eve, December 24, 5 pm Family
Service with Eucharist and Pageant; 10 pm
Christmas Carols; 10:30 pm First Eucharist of
Christmas; Christmas Day, December 25, 9:30
am Eucharist, Sunday, December 30, 8 & 10 am
Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols with
Eucharist (nursery and Church School 9:45 am)

St John's Episcopal Church

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HILLS/GA/12.18.01

Caring & Sharing

The horrific events of September 11th have made us all more aware of those things that we hold most dear: family, friends, sense of community, and our American way of life.

Now more than ever, during the holiday season, the less fortunate require our assistance. It is the tradition of the Bank and its employees to give as much time, encouragement, and financial help to local non-profit organizations, as possible. During 2001, we were able to contribute to over 300 worthy organizations.

We invite you to join us in supporting these non-profit organizations.

Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce
West Contra Costa Slesians Boys and Girls Club, Inc.

Richmond Lions Club

Tara Hills Recreation Association

El Cerrito Youth Baseball

American Association of University Women

John Sweet High School

Berkeley-Albany YMCA

Exchange Club of Pinole

NAACP - Richmond Branch

Big Brother/Big Sisters of the East Bay

Opportunity West

Pinole Valley High School

Exchange Club of Albany-El Cerrito

Boys and Girls Club of El Sobrante

Temple Beth Hillel

City of El Cerrito

Rotary Club of El Sobrante

Kiwanis Club of Walnut Creek

Berkeley Chamber of Commerce

Neighborhood House of North Richmond

Albany Little League

Contra Costa Senior Legal Services

Diablo Valley YMCA

Active 20-30 Club of Napa Children's Charitable Fund

Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission

Senior Outreach Services of Contra Costa

Friends of the Pinole Library

Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center

American Cancer Society

Christians in April * West Contra Costa County

Soroptimist International of Richmond

San Pablo Baseball Association

Boy Scouts of America

The Salvation Army

Saint John the Baptist

Pinole Chamber of Commerce

The Volunteer Center of Contra Costa

Contra Costa College Foundation

Albany High School

Wardrobe For Opportunity

Contra Costa Child Care Council

First Resori

Junior Achievement of the Bay Area, Inc.

Maya's Music Therapy Fund

City of Richmond

Bay Area Rescue Mission

Rotary Club of El Cerrito

Children's Hospital Foundation (Oakland)

Fraternal Order of the Eagles

Kensington Nursery School

Rodeo Chamber of Commerce

Epilepsy Foundation of Northern California

Salesian High School

Rotary Club of Pinole

STAND! Against Domestic Violence (formerly Battered Women's Alternatives)

Carondelet High School

Richmond Art Center

Berkeley Buddhist Temple

City of Albany

Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Berkeley Public Education Foundation

Richmond Museum of History

Indian Valley School

SIRS, Inc. - Buena Vista Branch #64

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Inc.

Albany Chamber of Commerce

Richmond Elks Lodge

Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship Fund, Ltd.

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program

The Wellness Community

Albany YMCA

Saint David School

Dwight Murray Invitational

Pleasant Hill Christian School

NIAD - National Institute of Art and Disabilities

Emeryville Chamber of Commerce

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

Kiwanis Club of Richmond

YMCA of the East Bay - West Contra Costa Branch

Solano Avenue Association

Shocker's Girls Fastpitch Softball

California Waterfowl Association

Lindsay Wildlife Museum

Richmond P.A.L. - Police Activities League

El Sobrante Chamber of Commerce

Queen of the Valley Hospital Foundation

Boys and Girls Club of Oakland

El Cerrito High School

Contra Costa County Office of Education

The Ed. Fund - The West Contra Costa

Public Education Fund,

Albion Police Department

Easter Hill United Methodist Church

Washington Elementary School (Richmond)

Center for Human Development

Saint Cornelius Church

Pinole Area AARP Chapter #3553

Richmond Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

Orinda Woman's Club

Shorebird Nature Center (City of Berkeley)

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

New Connections Counseling and Recovery Center

John Muir Medical Center Auxiliary

Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council

Kensington Community Council

Mt. Diablo Silverado Council Boy Scouts of America

Contra Costa ARC

Sutter Solano Medical Center Foundation

Saint Helena Hospital Foundation

Saint John Missionary Baptist Church

Saint Joseph Catholic Church

Saint Mary's College High School

West Contra Costa Business Development Center

West County Adult Day Care and Alzheimer's Respite Center

Willows Theater Company (The Benefactors, Inc.)

Berkeley Community Fund

Coronado Neighborhood Council

North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church

Nystrom Elementary School

Pinole Seals Swim Club

VNA & Hospice Foundation

Belasco Theatre Company

Berkeley City Ballet

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

El Cerrito Lions Club

West Contra Costa County Meals on Wheels

Northgate High School

Richmond Police Christmas Fund

Richmond Lodge No. 1251

Soroptimist International of El Pinole

Saint Rose Church/Saint Patrick Mission

Napa Valley Symphony League

Indigenous Nations Child & Family Agency

Saint Patrick Parish

Dibble Regional Arts Association

Brookside Community Health Center, Inc.

Asian Health Services

Elder Abuse Prevention

Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc.

Pinole Senior Center

Tehiyah Day School

Walnut Heights Elementary School

Saint Calixtus Catholic Church

Madera Elementary School PTA

The McKinley Foundation

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Berkeley Exchange Club of Richmond

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra

Sherwood Forest Christian School

Discovery Counseling Center of the San Ramon Valley

3M Track Club

Berkeley High School

California AIDS Ride

Equal Rights Advocates

Tara Hills Elementary School

American Diabetes Association

City of Berkeley

Campolindo High School

Kiwanis Club of Rossnoway Foundation

Young Entrepreneurs at Haas

Berkeley Lions Club

Brookside Foundation

March of Dimes

Habitat Children's Museum

The Napa Little League

Rubicon Programs Incorporated

San Pablo Community Foundation

Omega Boys Club

Alameda County Health Care Foundation

Pinole Hercules Little League

Celebrating Culture & Community

Napa Valley Museum

El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce

Berkeley Youth Alternatives

Berkeley Public Library Foundation

Bay Chindad Mental Health Program

Contra Costa Economic Partnership

United Way Community Impact Fund

Rotary Club of El Cerrito

Napa High School

The American Legion - Alamo Post 292

Familias Unidos Desarrollo Familiar Inc.

Oakland East Bay Symphony

Ofelia Elementary School

Rotary Club of Ignacio Foundation

Bernard Osher Marin Jewish Community Center

West Contra Costa Unified School District

Contra Costa Mental Health Commission

Special Olympics

East Bay Housing Organizations

Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond

The Diablo Valley College Foundation

Contra Costa College

Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church

Child Abuse Prevention Council of Costa County, Inc.

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation

Doctors Medical Center

Portola Middle School

The Christmas Coalition

Boys and Girls Club of Napa Valley

Giants Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center

Countymates-on-Wheels

De La Salle High School

Bishop O'Dowd High School

Danville Rotary Club

Crockett Lions Club

Juan Crespi Middle School

Pinole Garden Club

West Contra Costa Alliance

Countymeets-on-Wheels

Community Crisis Center

Kiwanis Club of Concord

Danville Area Chamber of Commerce

Bayview Horsemen's Association

EBALDC (East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation)

Phoenix Programs, Inc.

The Danny Foundation

Contra Costa County Bar Association

North Bay Children's Center

Danville Mustang Soccer League

Peres Elementary School

Carquinez Middle School

Iron Triangle Community Collaborative

Street Tech

Oakland Ballet

Volley Ball Church

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America, Inc. (Northern California Chapter)

Lions Clubs International - District 4-C3

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Northern California Chapter)

Chinese Cultural Education Association Of West Contra Costa

Fil-Am Parishioners of Saint Isidore

Urban Financial Services Coalition, Inc.

Fair Housing of Marin

Gabriel Diaz Memorial Fundraiser

The V Foundation

Children's Dental Health Foundation of Contra Costa County

Central Marin Youth Soccer

Loyal Order of Moose - Concord Lodge No. 567

BMW Community Fund

Harmony Bay Chorus

John Muir Memorial Association

Team NIE - Newspaper In Education

Glorietta Elementary School

BUILD (Berkeley yoUth Living with Disabilities, Inc.)

San Leandro Community Counseling

Saint Anne's #78, Young Ladies Institute

The Children's Health Council Auxiliary

Boys and Girls Club's Music and Drama Programs

Home Buyer Assistance Center

The Marin Ballet

LITA of Marin - Love Is The Answer

Downer Elementary School

Lycee Francais La Perouse

Alameda County Food Bank

John F. Kennedy High School

Kiwanis Club of Napa

Ujima Family Recovery Services

Contra Costa College Women's Softball

Marin Breast Cancer Watch

Saint Stephen's Youth Group

Mt. Diablo Habitat for Humanity

Center for Independent Living

Bo

Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, December 21, 2001

Section D

Generation Gap: Olds Intrigue is a quality car for its price [D3]

Presents
to park
under tree

BY MATT NAUMAN
KIRK RIDER NEWSPAPERS
Poring car gifts is easy. Nearly
any department and auto-parts
store has fun presents for
any person on your holiday shopping
list who loves cars.
Plus, there's a plethora of auto-
catalogs as well as those
that include auto stuff and lots of
other things.
Don't forget about car dealers-
hips and Web sites such as
eBay.com when you're check-
ing for something special.
Here's a short list, broken down
into a few categories, of some neat,
new products and car gifts for this
holiday season.

For the Kids

Model cars remain an enduring
classic and are enjoying something
of a mild comeback. While all
kinds of kid-size plastic and metal
models are available in toy and
department stores, the classic lines of
models sold by Pedal Car Classics of
San Mateo are wonderful.
The company sells eight mod-
els, including woodies, fire trucks,
cars and pickups.

The Gendron Firehouse Special
weighs 45 pounds and measures
36 inches long. Made of heavy-
duty metal with a powder-coat fin-
ish, it's a hood that opens, lights
work, adjustable pedals, real
ladders and rubber wheels.

The Gendron Firehouse Special
Pedal Car, \$399-\$429.

From: Pedal Car Classics, San
Mateo, Calif., 877-733-2501 or
pedalcarclassics.com

See GIFTS, Page D2



THE REDESIGNED Ford Explorer for 2002 has a new look and technological advances to deal with shortcomings of previous model.

Ford Explorer is the best-selling SUV in its class

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

The new 2002 Ford Explorer
couldn't have arrived at a better
time. The old model's recent rash
of bad publicity should be over-
shadowed by this all-new design.

It has technological highlights
that addressed the shortcomings of
the old version, a vehicle that was
around, in form, for 10 years.

Available in two- or four-wheel
drive, in base XLS, XLT, Eddie Bauer
or as our tester this week, a 4x2 in
upscale Limited trim.

Outside: Compared to the

model it replaced, the Explorer's
wheelbase is more than 2 inches
longer and 2.5-inches wider, but the
overall length remains the same.

It offers a nicely balanced look
that's larger and more modern, but
despite the use of an aluminum
hood and fenders, it's 200 pounds
heavier than the last model.

Ford designers were challenged
by the company to make things
easier, so the doors are taller, which
makes climbing in easier.

There's a split tailgate and a
lower lift-over height, so loading
cargo in back is easier, too. Our

tester came with alloy wheels and
16-inch raised white-letter tires.

Inside: The new Explorer's in-
terior is more user-friendly than ever.

Instruments are now larger and easi-
er to read, while power-adjustable
pedals and a tilt-and-telescopic
steering wheel allow for a perfect fit

for nearly any driver.

Changes to the suspension have
allowed Ford engineers to lower the

floor, so stepping inside is also easier.

Properly contoured seats are
now stuffed with denser, more sup-
portive foam, and there's more bol-
stering at all the right places.

New this year is a third-row seat
that gives Explorer seven-passenger
capacity for the first time.

When extra cargo space is
needed, the third-row seat folds flat
into a well in the floor, negating the
need to remove the seats.

This allows over 46 cubic feet of
space, while folding the middle row
of seats expands this to more than

81 cubic feet.

There are grab handles and stor-
age bins scattered throughout the
cabin, and interior sealing from the
elements is improved to reduce
road noise.

On the Road: Besides the fact
that Ford wanted Explorer to be big
to hold more people and cargo
a new powertrain brought a need
to make the engine compartment
larger as well.

The old model's 4.9-liter V-8 was
a pushrod design that's been

See SOD, Page D2

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ALL NEW 2003
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Sale priced
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For You
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WON'T LAST!

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\$16,995

96 Honda Passport

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\$17,995

98 Ford Windstar LX

#P10146/B32104

\$16,995

96 Olds Achieva

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\$5,995

95 Dodge Grand Caravan

#P10172/632360

\$11,995

99 Dodge Grand Car. SE

#P14033A/179901

\$14,995

98 Plymouth Neon

#P10255/539888

Save

98 Chrysler 300M

#P13770A/301712

Save

99 Chevy Camaro Conv.

#P10099/104016

\$14,995

98 GM V8 Vortec

#P10120/904429

Will Not Last!

98 Honda Accord LX

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\$16,995

98 Oldsmobile Intrigue

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98 Nissan Quest SE

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\$13,995



98 Infiniti I30

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\$13,995

All vehicles advertised subject to prior sale. Price plus tax, license, documentation, preparation and finance charges and savings when applicable. Sale price does not apply to leases. All sales subject to credit approval. Special 0% APR subject to credit approval on selected vehicles. *College Grad Rebate (\$500) to qualified applicants who will attend & enroll in an accredited college within one year from an accredited college (subject to verification). Ad Expires 12/31/01.



GENERAL MOTORS/OLDSMOBILE

OLDSMOBILE SILHOUETTE offers luxury appointments, entertainment system for rear passengers and good gas mileage. One safety feature missing on the low-end GL, however, are rear disc brakes.

Olds Silhouette: a very sensible minivan

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Mikele: I know that the sport-utility vehicle is the second hottest item on the American market but being the practical type, I much prefer the good old minivan.

For the same size vehicle, the owner gets lots better gas mileage, more seating capacity, and it's easier to drive and easier to get into and out of.

The newer ones have two rear sliding doors and three-passenger third row seats that are adequate if not comfortable.

The Oldsmobile Silhouette is one of these and it's more or less the luxury line of the three General Motors' minivan clones.

The original Silhouette of 1990 was an odd machine with a long, pointed nose that looked like a cross between the shuttle craft of the "Star Trek" TV series and a hand-sized vacuum cleaner.

This new one came out in 1997 and is much more conventional.

Brendan: It must be hard to make a minivan that doesn't look like all the other brands on the street and I guess it's because they have to fit a formula.

The Silhouette is powered by the venerable 3.4-liter GM low-tech motor that's been in the stable for many, many years. But it's a reliable old workhorse and minivan buyers are more interested in practicality and comfort items than they are in glitz technology.

It's front-wheel drive, of course, and for the first time, it can be had with a full-time all-wheel-drive system but only on the two upper-level models.

If there's a difference in the rotational speeds of the front and rear wheels, it kicks in with power to either or both of the rear wheels and the driver doesn't even know it has happened.

Mikele: With only 185 horsepower to pull around a 3,500-pound vehicle, the Silhouette is not a pavement-burner but it gets along OK.

And if the passenger list includes a load of kids in the rear, there's also an optional entertainment system that shows DVDs on a screen

BRENDAN/MIKELE HAGIN

Gender Gap

that swings down from the roof section just in back of the front seats.

The system also has a rear-seat-only AM/FM radio system that plays CDs and audio cassettes. It has a couple of earphones that can be plugged in so that those up front don't have to listen to what's being shown or played in back.

That would have been a great accessory for your folks when all you Hagens were little.

Brendan: The only hassle might have been over what we were going to watch and which of us seven would get those earphones.

The rear area also has its own heat and air conditioning controls but I don't think we'd have fought over that.

There are three versions of the Silhouette this year. Our GL is the baseline model and has all the normal accoutrements like 15-inch steel wheels and basic tires — although our tester came with 16-inch alloys.

Fog lamps are standard on all the Silhouettes and so is a roof rack, halogen headlamps, and heated outside mirrors that fold away.

The GLS is the next step up and it has fancier interior trappings like leather upholstery. The top of the line is the Premiere model which comes with everything but a chauffeur.

Mikele: The Silhouette can be had with a factory trailer towing kit and that makes sense on a machine that's designed around family use.

The all-wheel drive system makes launching and retrieving a ski boat lots easier on a slippery boat ramp.

It's only good for up to 3,500 pounds so the family will have to use something else to pull the home-away-from-home house trailer.

I'm surprised that there are air bags only for the front seats and

that the front-drive GL has drum brakes on the rear while the upper two models have rear disc brakes.

Safety should always be the prime consideration.

Disc brakes in the rear work better and they should be on all these Oldsmobile minivans.

Brendan: Oldsmobile is shutting down altogether in 2004 and it's already begun to eliminate the name from public view.

It's disbanded its motorsports program and the various amateur and professional golfing tournaments that carried the Oldsmobile name have been transferred over to Cadillac and Buick.

Mikele: Nothing lasts forever, Brendan, and I guess that applies to automobile makes, too.

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Gifts

FROM PAGE D1

■ The Travel & Play Travel Tray is as much for mom and dad as it is for the kids.

It fits around a young child in the backseat of a car or on an airplane and attaches with Velcro, said Gail Rotstein, a mother and owner of the Encino company.

Made of easy-to-clean nylon, the tray gives a child a place to play, or draw, or eat. Then, it folds up and fits into a bag.

The Travel & Play Travel Tray
From: Travel Play Co.
How much: \$23.95
Where: www.travelplayco.com

Patriot Games

At the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Week trade show earlier this fall, the floor of the Las Vegas Convention Center was awash with red, white and blue car products.

You could find everything from tire-wall caps to pickup truck hitch steps to steering wheels covered in American flags or American colors.

■ Frogworks International now sells a couple of patriotic Tenna Toys replacement antennas. Two of them have American flags, while another features "USA" with an eagle.

The antennas are solid steel and the designs are either laser-carved or die-stamped.

Tenna Toys American flag antenna
From: Frogworks International
How much: \$24
Where: AutoZone.com

■ The best thing about the flag-pattern Patriot Shield from EGR is that part of the profits from its sales will be donated to a fund for the families of police or firefighters killed

in the line of duty.

Patriot Shield
From: EGR
How much: \$23.95
Where: www.ewebstore.com

■ Napier Enterprises, which also

sells a camouflage-pattern truck tent, has produced the Sportz II Truck Tent. It's designed to work with the tail-gate down, to give two more feet of sleeping and storage room. It's sold in seven sizes.

Napier also offers a \$25 Sportz Canopy, which offers shade and privacy.

Another company, Enel of Coroado, sells the Adventure Truck Tent for \$289. Information can be found at www.adventuretrucktent.com

Sportz II Truck Tent

From: Napier Enterprises
How much: \$170
Where: 800-567-2434

■ For those who travel with dogs, the Bedwaggin' from Speed Weasel, is a solid choice in pet carriers. The Cupertino company builds the Bedwaggin' out of one-piece, heavy-duty plastic with a stainless-steel door.

It comes in three colors, including blue, and has mounting bars to attach it to a truck bed. Next year the company will produce versions for smaller and larger dogs.

www.danburyminis.com

■ The Danbury Mint

cast models for those who

don't touch them.

1/24 General Lee

or 1/35, or a 1/24 '49 Ford

convertible for \$12.

They even have a

boni model, and the

Sharks aren't among the

able National Hockey

League teams.

You can, however, get

gater pickups (\$145 and \$116)

Painted in the

color of the

Golden Knights

or the Oakland Raiders (\$116)

San Francisco 49ers

Lang model

From: The Danbury Mint

How much: \$116

Where: 800-493-2304

Classic racing cars inspire new line of Hot Wheels

BY JOHN O'DELL

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Bruce Meyer has been collecting classic cars since 1964, along the way scoring blue ribbons at the prestigious Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and other major shows for the meticulously restored hot rods and race cars in which he specializes.

Mattel Inc.'s Hot Wheels unit has been making die-cast replicas of cars almost as long as Meyer, who lives in the Los Angeles area, has been collecting the real things.

The company has produced more than 2 billion of its tiny but realistic Hot Wheels vehicles since 1968, fueling a mania among hobbyists who buy and trade the scale-model cars for many times their original scaled-down sticker prices.

It would seem only natural for these two forces to come together.

And so it is that Mattel has turned a quartet of famous racers from Meyer's garage into a set of Hot Wheels collectibles.

Tens of thousands of enthusiasts have built Hot Wheels collections, letting the toymaker's models stand in for famous cars and trucks they could never afford full-size.

In fact, notes Carson Lev, director of design for Hot Wheels racing and collector products, the Mattel unit divides itself into two business groups: the kids' side, with cars stamped out as children's toys and priced about \$1 each; and the adult side, which produces collectible scale models for marques ranging from Chevrolet to Ferrari as well as collector sets of historic vehicles, famous race cars and other vehicles of significance.

One popular line has been a series of four-car sets of classic vehicles.

More than 30 of them have been produced, including several that feature vintage race cars, and now the Meyer Gallery quartet will join their

ranks.

Meyer's four cars are the So-Cal Speed Shop Belly Tank dry-plate racer built in 1952 by shop founder Alex Xydias; the Agajanian Special Indianapolis 500; the Pierson brothers' 1934 Ford 3-Window Coupe, a dry-lake racer that set a class speed record of 152 mph in 1952 and achieved a best-ever top speed of 227.33 mph in 1991 with a heavily modified Chevrolet V-8 under the hood; and the Greer/Black/Prudhomme full-body dragster that gave

National Hot Rod Association star Don Prudhomme his first top-fuel ride and has the best record in drag racing's top fuel class with 237 victories in 241 starts.

Lev says the \$39.95 set is the last four-car collection Hot Wheels will make, as it turns its focus to single- and two-vehicle collectible models in the future.

Although the individual Hot Wheels collector cars cost as little as \$8 when new, demand for highly collectible models can send prices soaring.

Infiniti says the I35 also has a strengthened four-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission, larger front disc brakes

and ABS and Brake Assisted

and a revised exterior and interior

and amenities package.

A traction control system is available for Vehicle Dynamic Control. The smaller G20 sedan has minor changes for 2002, including the QX SUV.

The division is promoting high-performance sedans in the spring as a 2002 car-based SUV at an undetermined date.

Infiniti pushing luxury and performance

NEWSDAY

The top-of-the-line Q45 car from the luxury division of Nissan is new and on sale.

This third-generation Q has a new 32-valve, 340-horsepower, 4.5-liter V-8 engine, new styling, revised front suspension geometry and an all-new multilink rear suspension.

Infiniti says the body is 40 percent more rigid than that of its predecessor and has a longer wheelbase for increased interior and trunk space.

Also new is a multifunction 7-

inch LCD touch-screen video display with available navigation and rearview monitor systems and laser-based cruise control that maintains a set distance from the car ahead.

Meanwhile, the I35, formerly the 130, sports a new designation to reflect its larger and more powerful engine, a V-6 engine displacing 3.5 liters and producing 260 horsepower.

Infiniti says the I35 also has a strengthened four-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission, larger front disc brakes

and ABS and Brake Assisted

and a revised exterior and interior

and amenities package.

A traction control system is available for Vehicle Dynamic Control. The smaller G20 sedan has minor changes for 2002, including the QX SUV.

The division is promoting high-performance sedans in the spring as a 2002 car-based SUV at an undetermined date.

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Price as Tested: \$35,775

Engine Type: SOHC 16-valve 4.6-liter V-8 w/SMFI*

Engine Size: 245 cid/4009 cc

Horsepower: 245 @ 4,750 rpm

Torque: 280 @ 4,000 rpm

Transmission: Five-speed automatic

Curb Weight: 4,099 pounds

Fuel Capacity: 22.5 gallons

Tires: (F/R) P245/70R16

Brakes: (F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)

Drive Train: Front-engine/two-wheel drive

Vehicle Type: Seven-passenger/five-door

Mileage: City/highway 14/19

Maximum Towing: 3,500 pounds

*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

**Sequential multi-port fuel injection

***Sequential multi-port fuel injection

****Sequential multi-port fuel injection

*****Sequential multi-port fuel injection

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Neighborhood carts give new life to electric vehicle

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

We usually encounter golf carts on golf courses, and occasionally on suburban neighborhood streets where they are being used as self-propelled shopping carts.

But we can look forward to seeing more and more of these lightweight little machines in urban settings, sharing space with passenger cars, SUVs and delivery trucks.

And, like every other current-production vehicle that uses public streets, our federal government requires these electric carts to be built to certain safety standards.

In order to qualify as a street-legal electric cart under National Highway Traffic Safety Administration rules, the vehicle needs to have only four wheels, foot-operated brakes, a windshield, safety belts, headlights, brake lights, turn signals, a parking brake and rear view mirrors.

The other qualification is that it have a governed top speed of 25 mph. This bars them from high-speed highways, a situation their drivers are quite happy to avoid.

Crash testing isn't necessary and



BOB HAGAN

on the road, the auto club truck driver can't come by with a can of electricity.

Another problem for the major manufacturers is that the production of full-sized electric-powered family sedans is a losing proposition. They can't sell enough of them to have an impact on the mix that state governments are going to require and each one costs more to make and market than their selling price.

Various electric automakers have undertaken several innovative strategies to get their electrics on the road. Renting an electric at a mass-transit interurban train station, driving it home to be kept overnight and then returned the next morning has been tried.

While an electric motor pool is good idea, it proved to be very cumbersome in such areas as liability, and the retrieval of stranded or damaged cars became problematic.

The standard-fare neighborhood electric cart is, by definition, barred from highway travel by its built-in

restricted top speed but other fringe manufacturers have bypassed this problem by the simple expedient of designing their machines around three wheels rather than four.

Corbin Motors, a subsidiary of a Southern California motorcycle accessory maker, produces the Sparrow, a single-seater coupe that sports a canopy that raises and lowers like that of a fighter aircraft.

The company rationale behind the singular seating capacity is that 87 percent of American commuters drive 18 miles or less to work and 97 percent of these drivers are alone.

The reasoning is sound and the only qualm a commuter might have is sharing the highway with some very massive machinery.

By legally being designated a motorcycle, a high-speed three-wheel electric vehicle isn't required to undergo federal crash testing.

While Ford and DaimlerChrysler are in the game in a big way, the development and production of low-speed electric vehicles has been

undertaken in many other countries, too, and in most cases, they're small operations.

The concept is popular in countries with crowded urban areas and high gasoline prices. Companies in Germany, Canada, Japan, Korea and China are all making the small vehicles.

A Swiss company produces a vehicle that is electrically powered but has the added attraction of having a pedal system that can supplement its tiny electric motor when the going gets tough.

Called the Twike, the unique vehicle is currently being marketed in the Seattle area. It's a sort of cosmopolitan version of pedal/electric kickshaws that are popular in other countries.

Being conservative by nature, the insurance industry is adamant in its opposition to slow-speed electric vehicles, stating that their lack of conventional safety standards undermines its hard-won victories in the field.

Other heavy-hitters in the public safety field are also vociferous

in their opposition. Joan Davison, head of the National Safety Council, is a spokeswoman for the Web site www.safercar.gov.

On the strength of the electric vehicles, the National Safety Council is a strong advocate of the electric vehicle industry.

With chapters of the voice of the electric vehicle industry now being heard.

But the electric vehicle industry is strong and is determined to overcome the challenges ahead.

One way or another, electric vehicles are here to stay.

California leads way with mandate for zero-emission cars

BY JOHN O'DELL

LOS ANGELES TIMES

As California gets set to launch its unprecedented Zero-Emission Vehicle Mandate, two key East Coast states that once marched with it in a united effort to push development of electric-powered and other nonpolluting vehicles are falling behind.

The result could be a delay of several years in the launch of zero-emission vehicles in New York and Massachusetts.

Those states, along with Vermont, had adopted California's 2003 ZEV Mandate as their own under a federal law that sets California's emissions standards — the nation's toughest — as the alternative to the lesser federal requirements.

But now, New York and Massachusetts air-quality officials are proposing a revised program that could delay introduction of zero-emission vehicles in major Northeast markets until 2007.

And to the dismay of many in the environmental and electric car communities, the states are acting with the encouragement of the California Air Resources Board.

In lieu of the battery-powered electric cars and trucks that so far are the only vehicles that can claim zero emissions at the tailpipe, the two states would encourage use of technologies such as hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles and low-sulfur diesel fuel for truck engines.

Environmentalists view the delay as capitulation to an auto industry that has largely repudiated battery-powered electrics and is lobbying instead for acceptance of vehicles such as the Toyota Prius and Honda Insight hybrids, which offer high fuel

economy and qualify as ultra-low-emission vehicles yet still burn hydrocarbons.

"To the extent the CARB might have encouraged the Northeast program and the delay, we disagree," said Sandra A. Sculley, general counsel for the California Planning & Conservation League in Sacramento.

"We've always thought that having the Northeast states go along with California is important," she said. "We do need the economies of scale, especially as California's program has been scaled back."

Imposing a ZEV requirement simultaneously in California and the Northeast would help foster national interest in electric cars and trucks, said Roland Hwang, senior transportation policy analyst for the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco.

California alone accounts for 10 percent of U.S. car sales; the three Northeast states would double the size of the market that would be exposed to electric vehicles.

The delay being proposed in the Northeast stunned many, including Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, an enthusiast of electric vehicles who has insisted that his state adhere to the California standards.

"California's rules still do have requirements for some electric vehicles, so they are better than nothing," Dean said in a lukewarm endorsement of the complex ZEV Mandate that has gone through numerous changes in the face of heavy auto-industry lobbying in the last two years.

Getting true zero-emission vehicles onto the roads "is the key to a long-term strategy to rein in vehicle emissions," said Pe-

ter Iwanowicz, environmental health director for the American Lung Association of New York.

"Any delay is a setback," he said. "Our reading of this plan is that now the automakers can get away from doing anything in advanced technology — battery electric vehicles, fuel cells, hybrids — until 2007" in New York and Massachusetts.

But officials in California say delaying the ZEV mandate in the East is a necessary strategy.

Members of the California Air Resources Board are "concerned about the potential for problems if we have a (bicoastal) rollout of the ZEV mandate in 2003, so the board has encouraged me and others in the staff to work with the other states to ensure a successful roll-out," said the board's executive officer, Mike Kenny.

"It would be a problem if we didn't have a staggered start," he said. "We need California to go first and have the Northeast states follow a couple of years later."

The concern is that an unprepared public might reject alternative vehicles, said board spokesman Jerry Martin.

"The thing we are most afraid of is some sort of failure at start-up, so some of the issues that the automakers bring up are real," he said, referring to their arguments for postponing sales of battery electric vehicles outside California.

"California has a large number of electric vehicle recharging sites because the utilities here have been preparing for ZEVs for some time," Martin said. "And the public in California is more familiar with electric cars. We've been bombarding them

with information for 10 years. But a lot of that groundwork hasn't been done in the Northeast, and it needs to be done before a ZEV rule has a chance of being successful."

Officials in New York and Massachusetts, however, say they need the four-year delay to 2007 to lay the foundation for a support system for electric vehicles.

California's ZEV plan begins with the

2003 model year — which is early as January for compact cars.

Toyota and General Motors are introducing selected 2003 models.

The state's mandate covers at least 10 percent of the new cars offered for sale in California, a major automakers meet emissions standards that are far cleaner than those of vehicles today. A minimum of

Use of credits for electric vehicles scrutinized

LOS ANGELES TIMES

California's air quality regulators, responding to growing concerns about possible lengthy delays in the introduction of full-service electric vehicles under the state's Zero-Emission Vehicle Mandate, have moved to restrict automakers' use of credits for early introduction of small, low-speed neighborhood electric carts.

Under the ZEV Mandate as currently written, automakers can leverage relatively inexpensive neighborhood electric vehicles by introducing them in 2002, when each one will earn four credits that can be banked for use in offsetting ZEV requirements in future years.

Neighborhood electric vehicles, or NEVs, typically have a range of less than 30 miles per charge and, given their top speeds of 25 mph, are barred from streets with speed limits in excess of 35 mph. Most look a lot like oversize golf carts, although all are more crash-worthy and mechanically far more sophisticated.

Under one scenario, a company that pushed thousands of neighborhood electric carts into the state next year could earn enough credits to relieve it of having to produce any other type of zero-emission vehicle for a decade or more.

But an amendment to the mandate posted on the California Air Resources Board's Web site would prohibit automakers from using the early introduction credits to eliminate all other ZEV requirements after 2005.

The amendment would allow automakers to use accumulated credits to offset no more than 75 percent of their entire ZEV requirement in the 2006 model year and no more than 50 percent in 2007 and beyond.

Every major manufacturer that sells new passenger cars and light trucks in California has filed a plan for complying with the ZEV Mandate.

And, rumors have persisted that DaimlerChrysler, which owns a neighborhood electric vehicle manufacturer, Global Electric Motorcars of Fargo, N.D., is planning to dump 14,000 of the cart-type vehicles into the market next year.

That massive early introduction would permit DaimlerChrysler to collect credits for 56,000 ZEVs and relieve it of further ZEV requirements in California until 2010 or later.

The German-American automaker could even sell some of its accumulated ZEV credits to other companies because the rules permit buying, selling and trading.

Ken Montler, Global Electric Motorcars' president, said it won't happen — that the rumor of a plot to circumvent the mandate has no basis.

When DaimlerChrysler acquired Global

Electric last year, Montler said, its board of directors gave him three criteria: "They told me to respond to the ZEV Mandate, to build a sustaining business and to be profitable."

"If I flood the market next year, I will destroy it. And if I destroy it, then I can't have a sustaining business or a profitable one."

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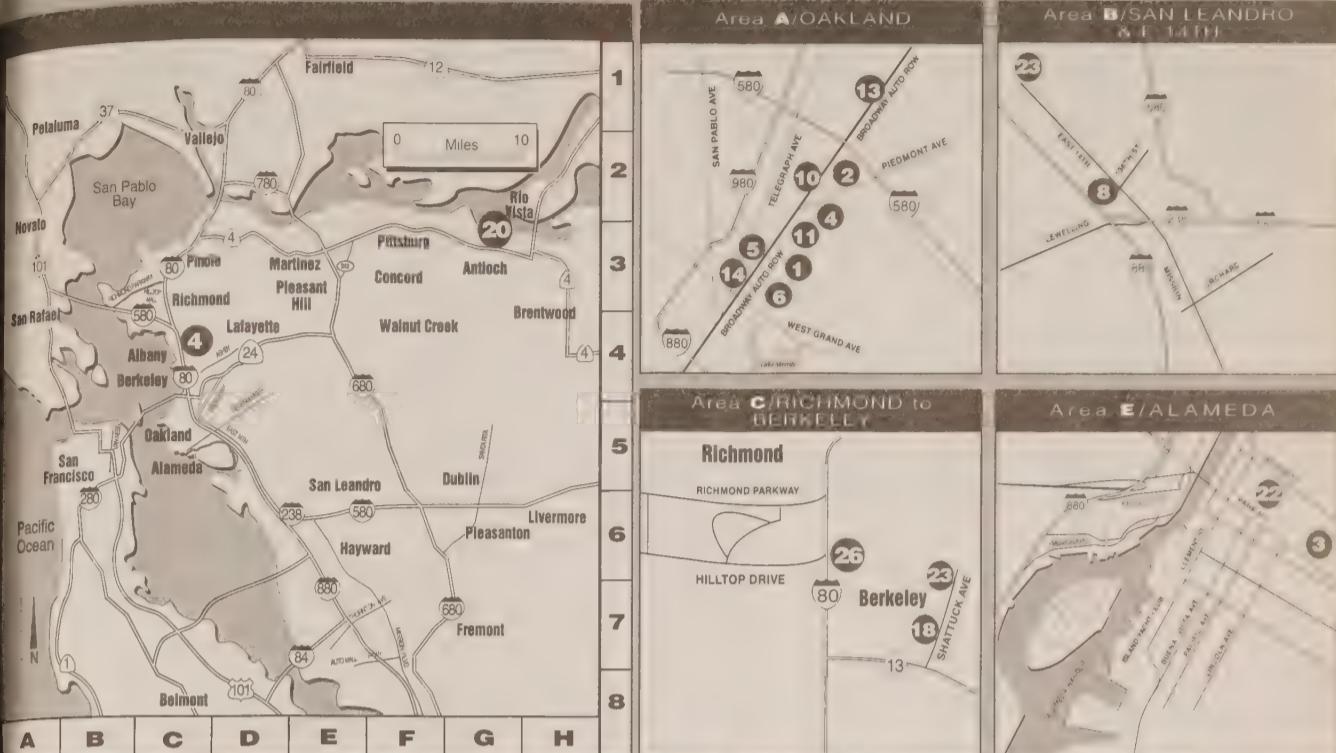
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14. Saturn of Oakland Area A
2355 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
(510) 839-6400

TOYOTA

18. Toyota of Berkeley Area C
2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley
(510) 845-2530
www.toyotaofberkeley.com

20. Antioch Toyota G-3
1610 "A" Sommersville Rd.
(925) 778-7200

21. Toyota Vallejo D-2
1180 Admiral Callaghan Way, Vallejo
(707) 552-4545

VOLVO

23. McKevitt Volvo Area B
2700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley
(510) 848-2206
McKevitt Volvo Area C
4030 International Blvd., Oakland
(510) 532-3778

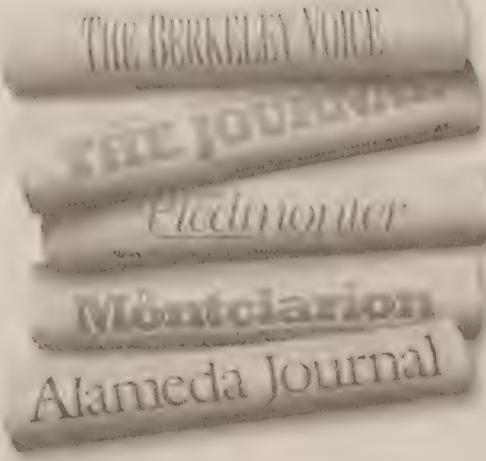




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171HR. **TIRE REPAIRMAN**
Must have at least 3 yrs exp. w/ changing & repairing tires. This is a Union position.

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3360 Biltmore Drive -

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Bank of Walnut Creek

Assistant Branch Manager

Livermore

Supervise all operational

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925-362-0000. Call to Job

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Re: college or advanced

training in a Credit Union or

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supervisory experience

Must be a team player and

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have knowledge of on-line

systems, Excel, mathematical

and organizational skills.

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Req. strong sales and cash

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cross-sell services & work

independently

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BOOKKEEPER/Quickbooks

Pro. exp. req'd. F/T-F/F

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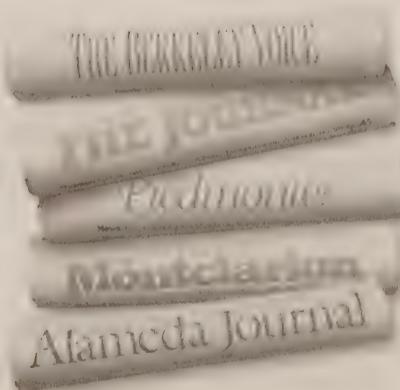
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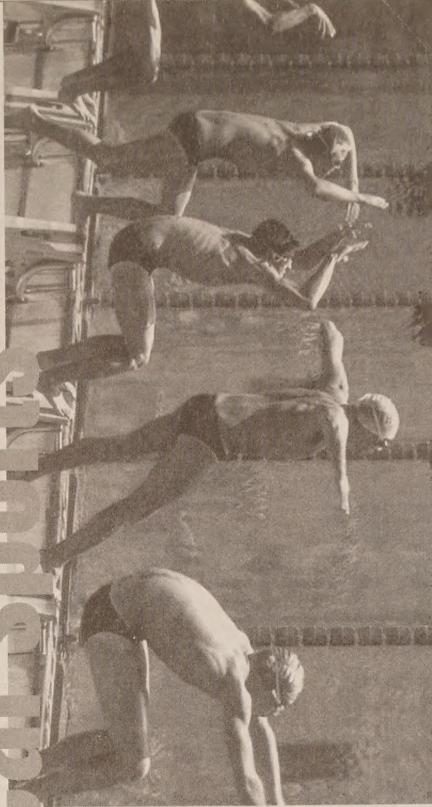
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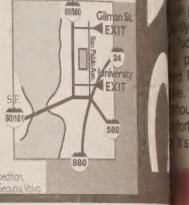
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